

Justices' clerks seek tougher rules on fines

By Frances Gibb

Tougher sanctions involving more use of the threat of imprisonment to enforce payment of fines are urged by the Justices' Clerks' Society in its submission, published today, on the Criminal Justice Bill.

The society is disappointed that the Bill in its committee stage in the House of Commons, does not make more fundamental changes on enforcement, which it says is by far the most urgent problem in relation to fines.

The fine is the principal weapon in the armory of the courts and is used for 48 per cent of offenders sentenced by crown courts and magistrates for indictable offences, the society says. Fines are imposed on 89 per cent of offenders sentenced for summary matters other than motoring, and on 99 per cent of those sentenced in motoring cases.

It is important that enforcement procedures should be certain and effective, the society says. If judges or magistrates were to lose confidence in the ability of the courts to recover fines, the use of them might diminish and could lead to more prison sentences.

The society rejects the minority view of the Wootton committee that the sanction of imprisonment should be removed for fine defaulters. "The plain fact is that the greedy men who turn to dishonesty will not pay their fines unless faced with an alternative even less palatable to them."

For fines to be a real alternative to custody, courts must have the power to ensure they are paid promptly, the society says, and it urges an amendment allowing courts to fix an effective sanction against future default at the time of conviction.

Faced with a defendant not intending to pay a fine, or who already owed money, courts could proceed, under this amendment, to impose a fine rather than order imprisonment, knowing that any default would result in an immediate commitment to prison.

The society says that proposals in the Bill on suspended sentences aimed at reducing overcrowding in prisons will result in more people, not fewer, in custody.

It opposes proposals for courts to be able to suspend part of a sentence. "We fear,

notwithstanding the amendments which the Bill proposes, that there will be wide disparity not only in the use by courts of the partly suspended sentence as a sentencing option, but also in the way it is applied," the society says.

Under the Bill, where courts require a minimum of 28 days imprisonment, there is no restriction on the maximum period that might be suspended. For sentences of up to two years, courts may order 25 days to be served and leave the rest in suspense.

Alternatively, in the society's view, courts can order up to 75 per cent of the sentence to be served, leaving only 25 per cent suspended. The aim should be to reduce the period of custody.

Other proposals are that detention centres should be available for girls as well as boys and that courts should have power to commit girls aged 15 to 20 to centres for from 12 days to four months.

Since the early 1960s there have been no detention centres available for girls and the Bill would reinforce this discrimination as no girls' centres are proposed.

Crime by girls and young women has risen out of all proportion to youths since the early 1960s, the society says. The courts are now faced with more and more girls committing serious crime and for whom no appropriate sentence is available.

Penny-pinching by magistrates is resulting in rough justice for many who appear in court, according to a report today. The Legal Action Group, made up of lawyers and legal experts, says that people are considerably more likely to leave the dock of, for instance, Reading Magistrates' Court without a stain on their character than they are at the court at Slough, no far away.

The group says the problem centres on different attitudes of magistrates on different benches, upon which legal representation often depends. There are vast discrepancies in the way courts do or do not grant bail, and the group states its research shows that a legal application is 28 times more likely to be refused at Slough than it is at Reading.

This, the group believes means that more people have to face trial in court and ultimately receive tougher treatment.

Cuts may close art gallery

By a Staff Reporter

One of Britain's most important regional galleries, Manchester City Art Gallery, is threatened with closure under proposals drawn up by council officials to meet the latest round of spending cuts. If implemented it would mean the collection of 7,000 oils, watercolours and drawings, plus its silver, pottery, arms and clothing going into storage.

Mr Timothy Clifford, the director, said yesterday: "I am feeling stupefied and horrified. We have gradually been run down over the last three years and already all five of our branch galleries are closed. There is not much left to shut down."

Manchester City Council has instructed officials to draw up options to meet cuts in the arts

The cuts must come from the art gallery, the 25 branch libraries and central reference library, two municipal theatres and one repertory company. Council officials are unwilling to let the full force of the cuts fall on the libraries because library use has been increased by 75 per cent in four years and they have no statutory duty to run the art gallery.

Shutting the two theatres would, on its own, only produce about half the money needed and the options for partial or total closure of the gallery will be considered by the Labour-controlled council's cultural services committee shortly.

Mr Clifford said he was concerned that the proposals would jeopardize gifts to the gallery and would adversely influence

Heart beats may give clue to cot deaths

By Annabel Ferguson
Health Services Correspondent

The deaths of more than 1,000 babies in Britain each year, from what has become known as cot death, could be due to abnormal heart and breathing rhythms, according to Dr David Southall, senior research fellow of the British Heart Foundation.

Dr Southall's electrocardiogram (heart tracing) is taken of newborn babies about 1 per cent have a rhythm abnormality and some of those abnormalities are associated with sudden death in adults. Dr Southall has set up a large-scale research project to test his theory.

A total of 7,500 apparently healthy babies had their heart and breathing monitored over 24 hours at one week and at six weeks after birth. After one year, 15 babies in the group had died from cot death, a death rate of one per 500, the same as the national average.

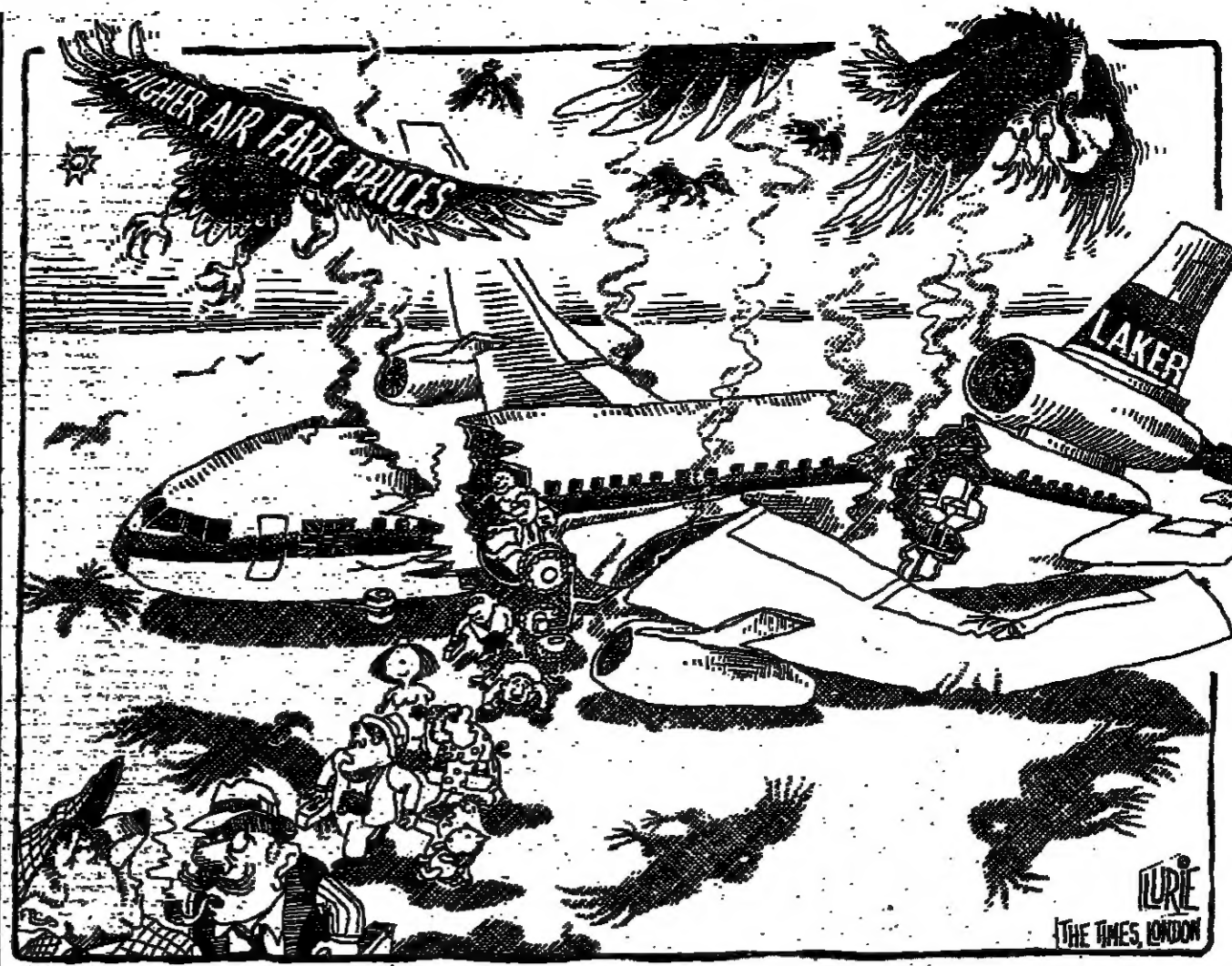
The original recordings of the 15 babies who died are being studied to see if any particular abnormality can be found. It is a massive task because the research team has to establish first what is normal, and a wide variation in heart and breathing patterns were recorded. No final result is expected for at least a year.

"It is tremendously important that the cause of cot death is discovered because it is something that has a shattering effect on parents," Dr Southall said. "There is no known cause but parents often feel that somehow they are at fault."

The research project, which involves a cross section of babies born in Brighton, Exeter and Doncaster between July 1981 and July 1982, is based at the Brompton Hospital, London.

Dr Southall believes it is important to carry out a prospective study, that is one involving apparently healthy babies rather than a retrospective study where events have become distorted with hindsight.

Answers from parents whose babies have died mysteriously are not reliable as many are too upset to remember details. The research team at Brompton Hospital consists of Dr Southall, Dr Elliot Shindler, consultant paediatric cardiologist, Miss Jean Richards, a full-time graduate research worker, three part-time graduates and 15 part-time housewives.



The future of Laker Cash offers from travellers

By John O'Leary and John Witherow

Promises of money to save Laker Airways continued to flood yesterday to a rescue fund set up by a Sussex hotelier. A London businessman offered to convert all the private donations into a bid for the company before the end of the week.

Mr James Brown, aged 31, is setting up a Laker Consortium Trust Account with accountants Leigh Carr and Partners, with the aim of coordinating the public response to the collapse of the airline. He estimates that £5m has already been promised to various private funds and that £10m would be sufficient to enlist the support of banks for a bid for at least part of the business.

The largest of the appeals, the FF (Freddie Friendly) Fund, set up by Mrs Kay Hardy, in Seaford, Sussex, has firm promises of more than £500,000 and is moving into the local branch of Lloyds Bank in an attempt to keep pace with the administrative demands of incessant calls from well-wishers. Mrs Hardy is meeting Mr Brown before deciding whether to co-operate in a bid.

Offers made over the week have ranged from £1 to £100,000. A pensioner who had worked for Sir Freddie sent a cheque for £50 and the Police pop group promised to give the proceeds of a special concert.

Mr George Levy, chairman of the Friends of Laker House, Hampstead, north London, which was threatened recently when the Greater London Council proposed to sell its collection of the house, said: "Closing museums has had epidemic proportions among local authorities, he said.

"It is quite unbelievable that Manchester should even consider doing such a thing. Manchester is an outstanding museum, one of the best in the region, and has done tremendous work. It should not be a museum of the past or the future. It is a service to the public and part of the cultural life of England."

Laker desk at Gatwick Airport has also been inundated with offers of money, all of which have been referred

to Mrs Hardy. Although no decision has been made about the use to which the money collected will be put, the organizers are adamant that it will not find its way into the hands of the receiver. Mr Ron Winter, another of the founders, said: "If we can collect enough to keep the show on the road, there is no reason why the money cannot be given to Laker to set up another business, with no strings attached."

Mrs Hardy is to meet Mr Brown to discuss his plans for a bid after hearing the advice of her bank manager. Mr Brown said yesterday: "This is a serious bid to buy Laker Airways on behalf of the British people and to keep Freddie Laker running his company. A lot of people who have taken advantage of cheap air travel owe him something and want to show it in cash."

Such signs, along with serious ones including declining turnover or boardroom strife, are indicative of impending financial gloom, according to Mr Bill Mackey, a receiver called in by Laker.

Writing in a book called *Managing for Profit*, published last Friday by McGraw Hill, Mr Mackey gives his own list of warning signs: "Rolls-Royce with personalised number plates; a fountain in the reception area; a flag pole; the Queen's Award for Industry (United Kingdom companies only); a chairman who is honoured for services to industry—every industry but his own; a salesman or engineer as chief executive; a recent move into modern offices."

Mr Mackey said yesterday that he knew nothing about Sir Freddie's personal assets. Sir Freddie is undoubtedly a very wealthy man. He lives at Chichester, near Lewes in Sussex, in a house which has 100 acres of land, six bedrooms and a swimming pool. He runs Woodcote Farm, near Epsom, Downs, where he keeps 24 race horses, some of them with names such as Take a Laker. He also owns a large farm at West Hove, near Guildford, and an 85-ton yacht, Tuinella, which is permanently based in the Mediterranean and frequently employed as a floating conference room.

Mr Colin Raworth, a West London shopkeeper, has also received promises of more than £100,000 since he launched his

debate between Dr FitzGerald and Mr Haughey, which could prove crucial. The latest opinion poll shows that Dr FitzGerald has opened a big personal lead over his rival, with 55 per cent of voters finding him an acceptable leader, only 25 per cent opting for Mr Haughey.

The opinion polls have greatly increased the morale of Dr FitzGerald's supporters. The increased confidence was evident yesterday during four hours of frenetic electioneering by Mr Bernard Durkan, the outgoing Fine Gael deputy, in rural Kildare.

Where else but in Ireland could a candidate spend all Sunday morning driving along winding country roads at high speed to catch the faithful leaving mass at eight different churches? Election agents in the republic need to know the times of mass in each village and how long the service lasts and the members who are likely to be there; a large attendance apparently indicating that the priest keeps everything as short as possible.

The Provisional IRA and the Irish National Liberation Army are reorganizing their command and control structures after a week of spectacular successes by security forces on both sides of the border (Tim Jones writes from Belfast). One source said in Belfast last night: "The IRA but it seems their capacity to wage war is at its lowest ebb for many years."

More than 40 people suspected of what the police described as "serious terrorist offences" are being questioned after dawn raids on republican areas throughout the province over the weekend.

Police sources say the arrests follow sustained undercover work. But there is a strong suspicion that much of the information has come from a "supergrass". He is believed to be a former commander of the Provisional battalion of the IRA in the Markets area of Belfast.

"Save Freddie Laker Fund" on Friday. He said: "I am paying all my own expenses incurred so that every penny collected can be used for the sole purpose of getting Sir Freddie Laker back in business. The Government and City say they cannot help him, so why not let the public have a chance to show how they care?"

Sir Freddie Laker's metallic gold Rolls-Royce, with its FAL 1 number plate, his knighthood and his strike-free and contented work force were all among signs that an operation such as Laker Airways could collapse.

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Anger in council at failed firm

From Arthur Osman, Birmingham

A dispute is expected today at the meeting of the West Midlands County Council about a company which sought the investment of pension fund and ratepayers' money but has now gone into liquidation.

Mr Alan Hope, the leader of the Conservative group on the council, said yesterday that Mr Geoffrey Edge, the Labour chairman of the council's economic development committee, had "a lot to answer for."

Fastback Research Ltd of Willenhall, West Midlands, was to have been the first company to be helped by the county's economic development unit, which was set up by Labour when it regained control last May. The unit intended to be a member of a consortium to produce an industrial adhesive which the company had developed but for which it has since agreed it does not have a British patent.

A confidential report by consultants commissioned by the unit had said that £620,000 would be required to restart the company. The county council's pension fund, which covers 63,000 local government workers in the region, has asked Mr Edge for a report on the names of Fastback's creditors.

Mr Raymond Bennett, managing director of Fastback, said: "As a result of the recent adverse publicity surrounding the company's endeavours to complete its negotiations with a consortium involving West Midlands County Council's economic development unit, which would have secured long-term growth and created new jobs, the directors have been left with no alternative but to formally request that these negotiations be terminated."

In order to allow an already formed consortium to obtain the assignment of the rights under discussion, the directors have requested that its bankers should appoint a liquidator

Three specific complaints arising from that selection conference have been upheld by Mr Walter Brown, the party's assistant national agent, in a confidential report to the national executive. Doubts have been raised, and confirmed, over the entitlement of some of the selection conference delegates to attend the meeting.

The report says that one councillor at the meeting was not a paid up member of the party until last December. The organizers of the selection conference also failed to give the required seven days' notice of the meeting, and the hall was inadequate because a large dance band was practicing in a room above.

It is highly unlikely that the technical recommendation of the report will meet with any resistance from the Labour left on the executive; Mr Wall will be entitled to put his name forward again as a challenger to Mr Ford at a recalled selection conference.

Science report

Hope of a cure for lead poisoning in swans

By Tony Samstag

A young veterinary surgeon believes he has found a cure for lead poisoning in swans. His unpublished and unconfirmed findings could halt the decline of the mute swan on such rivers as the Thames, Avon and Trent.

Mr S. W. Cooke says that of 78 birds treated with a combination of three drugs, 64 have been symptomatically cured, a success rate of 82 per cent. Those released have shown no tendency to relapse.

In a letter last year to the *Veterinary Record*, in Bracknell, Berkshire, offered a preliminary description of his treatment, a form of chelation therapy based on established treatment of lead poisoning in children. He described "a five-day course of the injectable chelants sodium calcium edetate and dimercaprol followed by a course of the oral drug D-penicillamine, the duration of which depends on the individual's response and history of exposure to lead."

The Greek and Latin antecedents of the word chelation mean claws. The English word refers to the action of the medicines in bonding with the heavy metal ions, which are, in effect, leached from the affected tissues and excreted.

The full course for a severely affected bird takes one to three months at a cost of about £40 per month. During that period a low-fibre diet is supplemented with a mineral mixture containing calcium and iron, routine antibiotic and vitamin injections, and often tube-feeding with a conventional milk-based mixture, such as Borden's Manna.

The treatment is nothing if not labour-intensive. Mr Cooke emphasizes the need for intelligent and diligent nursing, with regular passages to break down the impaction of fibrous food in the gizzard.

Mr Cooke concludes: "In the past many swans, geese and ducks suffering from lead poisoning have been destroyed because there has been no acceptable therapy available to treat them. I feel that we can now fill this gap in our therapeutic armory."

About 60 of the birds successfully treated by Mr Cooke are to be released at a swan sanctuary in Norfolk in the spring.

Mr Cooke says: "I am not sure how much of the company the public could acquire but would like to see the Laker continue to fly the Atlantic. Any donations would be considered as interest-free loans and could be converted into shares at a later stage."

Mr Brown said he had been approached by a number of businessmen with millions of pounds to invest, but he had turned them down. "I am not sure how much of the company the public could acquire but would like to see the Laker continue to fly the Atlantic. Any donations would be considered as interest-free loans and could be converted into shares at a later stage."

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WHAT HAS TO HAPPEN BEFORE YOU GIVE TO OXFAM?

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Send to: Guy Stanger, Oxfam, Room 7104, 15, Abchurch Lane, LONDON EC4N 3DF.

Text of lead risk letter

The text of the letter sent on March 6 last year to Sir James Hamilton, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Education and Science, by Sir Henry Yellowlees, Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Health and Social Security is as follows:

I am taking the unusual step of writing to you about the letter which is to come before the EASA Committee next week because the educational implications seem to me to be potentially important to DES.

It has been known for many years that lead is a hazard to the health and the signs of overt lead poisoning—plumbism—are known to every medical student. More recently, however, it has become clear that lead levels which are insufficient to give rise to obvious signs of lead poisoning may cause central nervous system damage to the population at large and, particularly to children, with resulting minor intellectual deficits and minor behavioural disorders.

Although a good deal of environmental action has already been taken to reduce exposure to lead, it was decided to set up a working party under the chairmanship of Professor Sir Lawrence to assess the situation with regard to children in whom low levels of exposure to lead had been detected.

The Report of the Lawrence Working Party was published in March 1980 and it was clear that at that time they were not convinced of the harm done by lead at low levels but they considered that at intermediate blood levels the risks could certainly not be discounted. Nevertheless, because of the general uncertainty the Working Party recommended that the Government should take measures to reduce population exposure to the metal. Further research into the problem was known to be in the pipeline and was to be continued and increased.

Some of the recommendations are uncontroversial, but on one important matter of lead in petrol—officials from several departments involved have been unable to reach agreement and a comprehensive report will go on Monday next to EASA Committee of the Cabinet leaving the major item for ministerial resolution. There is no doubt that the simplest and quickest way of reducing exposure to lead is by reducing

sharply or by entirely eliminating lead in petrol. The Environment Department, Health Department and Ministry of Transport are recommending a very considerable reduction in lead in petrol, but this is opposed by the Department of Energy and the Treasury on grounds of cost. I must now make my own position clear. A year ago when the Lawrence report was published there was a degree of uncertainty, but since then the evidence has accrued which though not in itself wholly conclusive, nevertheless strongly supports the view that:

(a) Even at low blood levels there is a negative correlation between blood lead level and IQ, and the simple explanation is that the lead produces these effects;

(b) Lead in petrol is a major contributor to blood lead level and, through the food chain as well as by inhalation.

Further research is being mounted but we are dealing here with the biological sciences where truly conclusive evidence may be unobtainable and it is therefore doubtful whether there is anything to be gained by deferring the decision until the results of further research become available. There is a strong likelihood that lead in petrol is permanently reducing the IQ of many of our children. Although the reduction amounts to only a few percentage points, some hundreds of thousands of children are affected and as Chief Medical Officer I have a duty to report this to you as Secretary of State. The action should now be taken to reduce markedly the lead content of petrol in use in the United Kingdom.

The risk to children is now shown to be too great for me to take any other course and to therefore convey this advice to you as Secretary of State. I am copying the letter to the Permanent Secretaries of the Home Office and the Department of the Environment being the other Government departments to which I owe responsibility.

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FitzGerald pledges new laws

From Richard Ford, Newbridge, co Kildare

Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Irish Prime Minister, pledged at an election meeting on Saturday to end partitionist laws that have kept the city of Limerick divided and created a society that was in many ways alien to the majority in Northern Ireland, he said.

But Dr FitzGerald, in impassioned remarks made at the end of his speech, said that his party was committed to unity by consent. Although both he and Mr Charles Haughey, leader of Fianna Fail, agreed that the city of Limerick would not be a central issue in the campaign, the Prime Minister is to make a speech on his constitutional crusade closer to polling day.

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WHITELAW SEEKS POLICE REFORMS

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary said yesterday he wanted voluntary arrangements set up "in the immediate future" to enable chief police officers to consult local community representatives on police procedures and practices.

Mr Whitelaw said on the BBC radio programme *The World This Week* that he also intended to proceed with legislation, but that could not be prepared before the next parliamentary session.

Overseas selling prices: Australia \$2.40; Bahrain \$2.00; Belgium \$2.40; Canada \$2.00; Denmark \$2.40; France \$2.00; Germany \$2.40; Greece \$2.00; Hong Kong \$2.40; India \$2.00; Italy \$2.40; Japan \$2.00; Korea \$2.40; Kuwait \$2.00; Lebanon \$2.40; Luxembourg \$2.00; Malaysia \$2.40; Mexico \$2.00; Morocco \$2.40; New Zealand \$2.00; Norway \$2.40; Pakistan \$2.00; Portugal \$2.40; Saudi Arabia \$2.00; Singapore \$2.40; South Africa \$2.00; Spain \$2.40; Sweden \$2.00; Switzerland \$2.40; Taiwan \$2.00; Thailand \$2.40; Turkey \$2.00; United Arab Emirates \$2.40; United Kingdom \$2.0

CRE instructs companies not to discriminate

By Lucy Hodges

The Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) has issued formal notices against six organizations, including Massey Ferguson, Rank Leisure Services and the Prestige Group, instructing them not to discriminate. The six organizations under investigation are, in turn, taking the commission to court to challenge the non-discrimination notices issued against them.

These details are given in a confidential 17-page memorandum which the CRE has sent to the Home Office and which amounts to a strong rebuttal of much of a report by an all-party of MPs last year, which was strongly critical of the commission. In its report, the Commons Home Affairs Committee was scathing about the commission's work on formal investigations into organizations for possible racial discrimination, accusing it of chasing "small fry" and of being slow to complete its reports.

In its formal response to the Home Office the commission accepts some of the criticism and says it is carrying out another review into procedures as a result of the report. But it points out that delay are caused by companies or other bodies it is investigating who then sue the CRE.

The Birmingham Area Health Authority is also appealing against a non-discrimination notice issued by the commission in the course of a formal investigation.

The CRE's greatest blow in the courts came last year in a case brought by Hillingdon council in west London. Denying it a matter that the commission has had to stop seven of its investigations and resume with new terms of reference.

The inquiries it is having to restart include one into

the allocation of council housing by Walsall council, West Midlands, another into the employment of dustmen by Westminster council and a third into employment by Kirklees council, West Yorkshire.

In its paper to the Home Office the commission says that in more than five years in existence, it has published reports on 43 investigations and completed inquiries into 17 more. The select committee said the commission had finished only 10 out of 45 investigations by last spring. The CRE rehearses many of the objections which it made when the MPs' report was published in December. It is understood that Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, shares some of the commission's views and last week made it clear to a delegation of senior trade unionists that aspects of the report were "unfairly critical" of the commission.

Senior CRE officials believe the Home Office will not accept the MPs' recommendations on the ending of the posts of deputy chairman and chief executive, now filled by blacks, of that the commission should be shorn of its grant-giving powers.

The commission has told the Home Office that the select committee completely misunderstood some aspects of its work, particularly the relationship between law enforcement and the promotion of good race relations.

It says that if its promotional work was confined solely to matters arising directly out of investigations, as the committee proposed, it would be neglecting an important duty imposed on it by the Race Relations Act. It would, for example, not be able to undertake the work it does with the police, educational and business organizations.

Record sum given to renovate theatre

By Christopher Warman
Arts Correspondent

A grant of £500,000 over the next five years is to be made to the Grand Theatre, Swansea, by the Arts Council towards the cost of improving facilities. That is the largest grant made by the council under its Housing the Arts scheme and is one of a series being given to help to renovate regional theatres.

Already the council has given £450,000 to the Palace Theatre, Manchester, and £500,000 to the Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

Apart from the New Theatre, Cardiff, the Grand at Swansea, is the only theatre in Wales capable of housing medium and large scale touring productions and it has serious difficulties both backstage and front of house which inhibit its development to its full potential.

The council said the theatre's improvement scheme was expected to take about ten years and cost more than £5m. The grant is specifically for the early phases of the scheme including the reconstruction of the stage, construction of a new theatre entrance and of bars and restaurants.

The theatre is visited by the Welsh National Opera and runs a full programme of subsidized drama, opera and dance as well as commercial entertainment. It is expected that after the redevelopment the theatre will see more of the Welsh National Opera as well as tours from other companies.

Sir Hywel Evans, chairman of the Welsh Arts Council through which the grant is being made to Swansea City Council, said: "This is the largest sum ever awarded by the council for a theatre development and reflects the importance which we attach to responding to Swansea's initiative in the arts."



All quiet on the western line: Mr Arthur Naylor and his wife, Uma, who live in the closed station at Little Kimble, on the still used London-Aylesbury route, enjoying the peace of a strike.

Miles of woodlands go quietly for sale

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

More than a hundred woodlands, with a combined area of almost 20 square miles, have quietly been put up for sale since the Government began its sale of Forestry Commission land last November. Very few of the woods have been advertised and only seven lots have so far been sold on the open market, though the Government and the commission refuse to name prices and buyers.

The seven include almost four square miles of Loch Moss, forest with commercial peat extraction, in Dumfries

and Galloway. That was bought by a single purchaser and represents the Government's most successful effort so far at raising money by selling state forest land.

The sale of the two-square-mile Stang Forest, in co Durham, collapsed last year after the Forestry Commission believed that it had been concluded. The commission hopes that it will succeed in selling the property this year.

The campaign to raise £10m a year by selling woods owned by the commission has been condemned by the

Labour movement as proceeding for monetarist reasons without heed to the needs of the forestry industry. Ministers see it as a means of reducing the burden of state forestry on public funds.

More than 20 woodlands, with a combined area of about five square miles, have been sold back to the private landowners from whom the commission bought them. Some of these lots have not been advertised on the open market.

The commission has agreed

not to sell woods of exceptional scenic and scientific interest without first consulting government and voluntary conservation bodies. But a transfer of woodland to a state body such as the Nature Conservancy Council would not raise money, while some regional naturalists' societies cannot afford to buy.

Nevertheless, the National Trust has bought more than 200 acres of woodland in Somerset from the commission, to prevent it from being used by an investor purely as a source of commercial timber.

Over-busy pub sells pasties at its peril

From Our Correspondent
Exeter

The landlord of the Royal Oak, at Meavy on Dartmoor, has been told to cut his trade because he is too successful. Barrator Parish Council, which owns the inn, has taken measures for reducing business before his lease can be renewed, because some local people have complained about the level of activity.

Mr Shortridge said: "It is silly. The council are cutting their own throats because the more cash we take over the bar, the more rent is paid to them."

The Royal Oak is no exception to other pubs. We have very quiet times, especially during the winter. We have six hectic weeks in the summer but I would not call that over-successful. It is just one of two residents' complaints.

The Parish Council's recommendations are: To serve west Country pasties only between May and October; to stop Mr. Des Shortridge from putting here food on sale to customers; to ban the landlord from playing instruments other than piano; to stop people sitting outside the public house by removing the chairs; and to force customers to drink only inside the building.

Mr Shortridge said: "I have told the council in no uncertain terms that I will not run the pub's trade down. Mr. Nicholas Waterhouse, one of the parish councillors, said: 'The proposals are long-term measures designed to reduce the present gross over-trading at the inn.'"

□ The James in Horbling, Lincolnshire, are going down because they are being offered by most of the annual rental from the Plough Inn, which is owned by the parish council. It will have the 400 population an average of £6 a head. (Our Peterborough Correspondent writes).

Research council cuts: 1

Unseen effect of cash pruning

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

More than a year ago Mrs Margaret Thatcher proudly told an all-party parliamentary and scientific committee that the Government's policy on research was "protected" from the round of public spending cuts. Today, research workers in universities say subsequent actions suggest she has reneged on that commitment.

The issue is rapidly coming to a head in the wake of cutbacks made by the Universities Grants Committee. Those cuts have mostly been discussed in terms of the impact on the numbers of students and academic staff. The effect the cuts have in undermining research has received less attention.

Research in universities is only 14 per cent of the total money spent by the Government on research. More than £3,500m of government money was divided between research on defence (£200m); to promote industrial growth (£118m); on health (£50m); and on other activities like energy communications and public transport.

The amount devoted directly to pure research in universities was about £200m last year. The money comes from the £478m allocated through Parliament as the Science Vote. That is shared between five research councils: the Science and Engineering Research Council, Natural Environment Research Council, Medical Research Council, Agricultural Research Council and the Social Sciences Research Council.

There are marked differences in the way each council is saving from the economic squeeze. The science and engineering, natural environment and medical research councils are vulnerable for special reason, even though their budget allocations have at least been held static. The grants those organizations have to university scientists are only part of the research story. Academic research in Britain relies on a unique scheme known as the dual support system.

Under that arrangement, universities are expected to provide from general funds, coming from the University Grants Committee, an equipment grant for "floor" of research facilities. That means, literally, the floor space and essential laboratory apparatus needed. The research councils provide the money for specific projects.

Between the two, academics should have the conditions to teach well and conduct first class research. But before the cuts, the

equipment grant had fallen below the figure needed by university departments for servicing vital apparatus such as electron microscopes and computers.

Expressing the anxiety of academic research workers, Sir Andrew Huxley, president of the Royal Society, says the dual support system, envied in other countries, had been reduced to a shadow. It was in danger of being obliterated by the cuts in university finance, he claimed.

Sir Andrew recognised that there was scope for rationalization within universities, and that the University Grants Committee's recommendations to individual universities on cuts were to encourage a more efficient use of resources. However, had the grants committee gone further, taking the decisions where to make cuts out of the hands of the universities, there would have been protests at the infringement of the universities' independence, Sir Andrew argued.

Sir Andrew said there was a danger to scientific research in that raising departmental grants was a way of avoiding, or reducing the number of, compulsory terminations of employment.

Tomorrow: Medical research

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Seamen's health survey

A large-scale study of the health of crews working on merchant ships has been commissioned by British shipowners in cooperation with seafarers' unions (Our Labour Editor writes). The survey, to be carried out by the TUC Centenary Institute of Occupational Health, has been prompted by statistics suggesting that seafarers may be more vulnerable to illness and early death than people in many other occupations.

About one in 50 of Britain's 60,000 merchant seamen and officers will be asked to fill in a questionnaire and undergo a physical examination. The results will be compared with known statistics for the general population.

Pensioners are led to safety

More than 50 pensioners were led to safety when fire broke out at an old people's home in Halesowen, Birmingham, yesterday. No one was hurt, but some people had to spend the rest of the night on makeshift mattresses as firemen damped down the roof blaze, believed to have been caused by a fault in the heating system. The home was not badly damaged.

Council house subsidies fall as rents increase

By David Walker

Housing figures published today show that the Government is succeeding in its policy of cutting general subsidies for council housing and moving to special rebates for poorer tenants.

Overall subsidies to council housing in England and Wales have fallen by nearly a third, measured in cash, between 1980-81 and 1981-82. Council rents have increased during the same period by nearly a half.

According to calculations by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, a professional body on which the Government often relies for estimates of local spending, public spending on rent rebates to council tenants could have increased by as much as four-fifths.

The calculations are complex because some rebates are paid by the Department of the Environment, some from the rates and some from the social security system administered by the Department of Health and Social Security.

Those changes in the balance between general subsidies and special rebates are in line with the Housing Act, 1980, and will probably continue through 1982-83. Council rents are due to rise by at least £2.50 a week on average on April 1.

Council house rents still only cover on average two-thirds of the full cost of public spending on each dwelling. The table shows the relationship during 1981-82

	Grant (£m)	Rebate (£m)	Total (£m)
London	12.67	10.83	23.50
GLC	14.65	11.38	26.03
Met	10.26	5.31	15.57
Met	11.36	5.67	17.03
Met	11.48	8.44	19.92

of the gross amount received by councils in rent and the cost of management and maintenance. Total cost includes interest charges on loans which average £11.38 a week for each council dwelling in England and Wales.

Some local authorities cushion their tenants against the impact of the Government's policy of high rents. Chartered Institute's latest figures show that the London boroughs increased their rates subsidy to rents by 10 per cent between 1980-81 and 1981-82. Expenditure on rent only about 1 per cent of total housing spending by councils in the English shires; but in London 20 per cent of total costs come from the rates.

There are now 5,200,000 dwellings in local authority ownership in England and Wales, plus another 100,000 owned by the new town corporations. The average cost to councils of providing a dwelling in 1981-82 is £18.36 a week, of which £11.48 comes from the rent paid by tenants.

Housing Revenue Account Statistics 1981-82 estimates. CIPFA, 1 Buckingham Place, London SW1E 6HS, £12.

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Deng's departure raises fears for China's future

From David Bonavia, Peking, Feb 7

The disclosure that Mr Deng Xiaoping will no longer take an active role in the day-to-day administration of China has caused surprise and even shock among observers of Chinese affairs and raised grave concerns about the country's future.

Mr Deng, the leading vice-chairman of the Communist Party, has been in control of party and government affairs since his political rehabilitation in 1973 apart from a one-year period of disgrace during and after the final ascendancy of the leftist "Gang of Four" led by Jiang Qing, widow of Mao Tse-tung.

Mr Wan Li, a Deputy Prime Minister, considered close to Mr Deng, told a delegation from Reuters news agency that he was in southern China, resting. However, Foreign Ministry officials vehemently denied reports that he was in poor health.

Mr Deng's personal prestige, experience and authority are considered to have been the crucial factor in maintaining national unity in recent years, in the face of some highly divisive issues.

Mr Deng's last known statement on the question of his retirement was that he would remain in office until 1985 then seek an advisory role. There is no explanation as to why he should have decided to limit his own functions three years ahead of time.

Glemp urges voice for Solidarity

Rome, Feb 7. — Archbishop Jozef Glemp, the Roman Catholic primate of Poland, said today that Solidarity should be included in efforts to achieve reconciliation in his country.

Archbishop Glemp, in Rome for his first meeting with the Pope since martial law was declared in Poland, preached to the Polish community in the ancient church of St Stanislaus. "Rage is the worst disease now afflicting our homeland," he said. "The Church is bent on its knees in front of a suffering society... and recommends love as the only medicine."

He added: "We must find an accord so that Poland again becomes the homeland of all Poles."

During the Mass, the congregation sang hymns and popular Polish songs and Archbishop Glemp asked them to pray for interned members of Solidarity and their families. Solidarity

should have a place alongside the Church in negotiations with the military rulers in Warsaw, he said.

Since the proclamation of martial law the Archbishop has been involved in mediation efforts between Poland's military rulers and Mr Lech Walesa, the detained Solidarity leader.

Appealing for tolerance, the Archbishop said: "Poland must not become an arena for bloody confrontations." But he made no reference to his meetings with the Pope, who today refrained from making any comments on the Polish crisis at his traditional Warsaw blessing. — Reuters.

□ Warsaw: The Polish Communist Party said today it was finding it hard to woo back workers and intellectuals who deserted it during the confrontation with Solidarity. (Reuters reports.)

Mr Włodzisław Mokrzyński, secretary of the party's

Central Committee, reported that membership had dropped by 500,000 to 2.6 million since last July.

The loss was due to resignations and a purge of inefficient and discredited members, he told the official PAP news agency.

The party, thrust into the background by martial law, is in the midst of a drive to win back disillusioned members and rebuild public credibility.

The official said resistance to its efforts to reassert itself was strongest in factories, where Solidarity had powerful support, and among intellectuals.

The party was still being purged at all levels but the pace of resignations had not increased since the military take-over in December. Intellectuals and workers who left to join Solidarity should be encouraged to return but no leniency should be shown to enemies of Marxism, Mr Mokrzyński added.

Battle lines drawn for Madrid talks

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, Feb 7

The foreign ministers of at least 20 countries began gathering here today for a verbal battle — with the Soviet and Polish Governments as the principal targets — that could turn the hundredth session of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe into the final session.

The first plenary session after a winter recess will be presided over on Tuesday by Jozef Wieszac, the Polish Deputy Foreign Minister, who is said to have issued a warning before leaving Warsaw that his country "will not take part in the Madrid conference if it is relegated to the role of defendant."

The Polish and Soviet Governments are expected to be accused by Western nations of violating the 1975 Helsinki agreements, which it is the task of the present conference to review and expand.

The fact that most of the 35 participating countries will be represented by their foreign ministers rather than by normal heads of delegation suggests the importance that their governments attach to the meeting at this time, after 15 months of debate with little progress.

The positions of the various Western delegations range from the tough stance of Mr Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State, who recently informed NATO allies that he favours suspending the conference until next autumn as a sign of protest over Poland, to the more conciliatory attitude of Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Foreign Minister, who advocates a recess as a period of reflection, but only after two or three weeks' more discussion in Madrid.

The possibility exists of next Tuesday's debate ending in a total breakdown of the conference. Since a severe confrontation between East and West could make it impossible to achieve the consensus needed to continue the meeting. Most observers of the conference, however, consider this unlikely as both East and West are interested in continuing the Helsinki process, even if for different reasons.

The Soviet Union needs it to win approval to bring all 35 nations together for a disarmament conference, and the West needs it to bring pressure on the signatories.



Mubarak sees role for Europe

By Edward Mortimer

own man and happy to be seen as such.

Mr Mubarak had had lunch with Mrs Thatcher at Chequers on Saturday. He had called in Britain on his way home from Washington, and was leaving for Bonn, to meet Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor. (On the outward journey he had stopped in Rome and Paris.) The Europeans, he said, had a very strong role to play in achieving a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, through their influence on the United States and on Israel.

Did he mean we should put pressure on those countries? "I'm not speaking at all about pressures. Under standing, discussing this with their friends the Israelis, and also with the United States — it would be a good support to the comprehensive settlement."

Mr Mubarak repeated his view, already voiced in Washington, that the Americans should start a dialogue with the Palestinians. Did he see the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinians? "It was so registered according to the Rabat summit, but still there are differences between them all." The Americans should start a dialogue with whichever Palestinians were moderate enough to be willing to hold one.

Mr Mubarak was also asked whether he could envisage any action by Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, that would force him to interrupt the peace process. He replied by emphasizing that withdrawal from Sinai was "a commitment on the Israeli side" and that he was "sure whenever they sign a document they respect it."

Cell death starts biggest outcry since Biko

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg, Feb 7

South African opposition politicians, backed by trade unionists and leading businessmen, have called for a full official inquiry into the death of Dr Neil Aggett, the 28-year-old trade union leader found hanging in his cell at security police headquarters in Johannesburg.

The police claim Dr Aggett hanged himself but his death has set off a political and legal storm about the conditions in which prisoners are held for interrogation without trial for months under South Africa's rigorous and all-embracing security laws.

His death has already caused the biggest outcry since that of the Black consciousness leader Steve Biko, who died in 1977 from injuries sustained at security police offices in Port Elizabeth.

The fullest statement from the authorities on Dr Aggett's death was given yesterday by Lieutenant-General Johann Coetzee, the Deputy Commissioner of Police and chief of security forces, who said Dr Aggett was found hanging from an iron grille behind his cell door by a piece of clothing wound round his neck.

Lieutenant-General Coetzee also disclosed that Dr Aggett had left a unfinished statement.

Dr Aggett was being held under Section 6 of the Terrorism Act, under which a suspect can be held indefinitely in solitary confinement without trial. Professor John Dugard, the director of the Centre of Applied Legal Studies at the University of Witwatersrand, today called for a formal investigation into mounting evidence that "Section 6 produces an environment of intimidation tantamount to torture."

Mr Pyke, who managed an Iranian-Dutch firm operating helicopters for the oil industry, was arrested at Tehran airport as he was about to leave Iran in August, 1980. He was released from jail 10 days ago.

Yesterday he reacted angrily to a barrage of questions from reporters as he and his smiling Dutch-born wife Tilleke were taken by Dutch colleagues and airport officials to a reunion at the airport with friends. "I've been in prison for a year and a half. Leave me alone", he shouted at journalists.

After the reunion he apologized to the press and, walking to a news conference surrounded by Dutch policemen, said: "The last guys I was with like this had green jackets, berets and machine guns."

Looking drawn but very happy, Mr Pyke said that after investigations a religious judge said he had no case to answer. He was

initially held on spying charges but Iranian officials said later they were investigating financial matters. He said he did not plan to go back to Iran.

Replying to questions, he said he knew of six American prisoners being held in Iran when I heard I was there. But he never felt that his life was in danger although he stayed in Iran's Evin prison knowing that executions were taking place there all the time.

Mr Pyke thanked the 10,000 British people who sent him Christmas cards for their moral support and the British diplomats who negotiated for his freedom.

He and his wife were driven away to an undisclosed location in the Netherlands, where they hoped to spend a few days alone before flying to London. — Reuters

Pyke blames man with grudge for his ordeal

Schiphol, Holland, Feb 7

Mr Andrew Pyke, the British businessman freed by Iran, has said that false accusations by a would-be employee with a grudge led to his 518-day ordeal in a Tehran jail. He made unpleasant accusations, saying he was a spy, I am not a spy," Mr Pyke said on arrival in the Netherlands.

Mr Pyke, who managed an Iranian-Dutch firm operating helicopters for the oil industry, was arrested at Tehran airport as he was about to leave Iran in August, 1980. He was released from jail 10 days ago.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Terrorist suffer big setback

Rome. — Italian anti-terrorist police have arrested more than 150 guerrilla suspects and dismantled 25 of their bases since the liberation 11 days ago of General James Dozier, Interior Ministry sources said.

General Dozier was rescued after 42 days in captivity. The Washington Post reported that six men sent by the Pentagon to serve as liaison between Italian and American officials were members of the elite counter-terrorist unit task force. It was created last year to replace the special army unit which failed to liberate the American hostages from Iran in 1980.

Missile gingerly reclaimed

Schranberg, West Germany. — American explosives experts carefully dismantled the concrete floor of a Black Forest barn in an attempt to recover a live Sidewinder missile which fell off a jet fighter during combat drill.

The 190lb missile, which carries about 9lb of TNT, plunged through the roof of the barn, and drove through about 15ft of densely packed hay before embedding itself 3ft into the concrete, and sandstone floor, an Air Force spokesman said. The owner of the barn, Herr Eugen Seckinger, aged 79, and his wife, were taken to safety after the missile was discovered. Police said that Herr Seckinger, being heard of hearing, knew nothing of the missile until he saw a large hole in the barn roof.

Moses inspires a president

Washington. — When President Reagan celebrated his seventy-first birthday here with a few close friends, he became the oldest man ever to occupy the White House. Last week, at a prayer-luncheon, he joked about his age. He said: "This increase of numbers doesn't bother me at all because I recall that Moses was 80 when God commissioned him for public service, and he lived to be 120. And Abraham and his wife, Sarah, were 90 when they did something amazing," they had a son, Isaac. Sarah had been thought to be sterile.

Surgeons cut supply route

Paris. — A 22-year-old Briton was recovering here from an operation during which surgeons recovered more than 3 lb of cocaine from his stomach, reliable sources said.

Th man, who lives in London, was intercepted when he arrived on a flight from Colombia. He is said to have admitted having swallowed 70 tablets of cocaine, each 40 grams in condoms.

Romanian food prices to rise

Vienna. — Romania is rising food prices but will compensate low wage earners for the additional expense, Agerpres, the official news agency, said.

Western sources said that some prices, including those of black bread, sugar, flour and oil, had remained unchanged for about 30 years. Romania is negotiating with the International Monetary Fund for the second part of a \$1,480m loan (about £200m) granted last June.

Lenin tomb closes

Moscow. — The Kremlin has announced that Lenin's mausoleum in Red Square, Moscow, is too close for two months — usually an indication that restorative work will be carried out on the embalmed body of the revolutionary leader who died in 1924. The mausoleum will be shut from February 15 to April 15, according to Pravda.

Israelis dismiss UN vote

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, Feb 7

Israel today derisively dismissed Friday's United Nations call for its diplomatic, economic and military isolation. A Cabinet statement said that Israel did not need moral preaching about peace from the Arab states and the Soviet Union.

The 21 countries which opposed the resolution, including all of Western Europe except Greece, were praised as "democratic and free". In contrast to the communist members and the Islamic nations of Asia, Africa and the Arab world which made up the majority.

The statement said that the General Assembly's resolution was "null and void", but some analysts said the process was being seen.

The newspaper, Maariv, noted in a leading article that a small number of states which supported the resolution (Burma, Cyprus, Greece, Nepal and Peru) maintained diplomatic ties with Israel. A larger number maintained trade relations.

Commentators agreed that there was no danger of expulsion from the United Nations.

□ The United States appears to be backing away from its earlier threat against the United Nations. (Our New York Correspondent writes).

Mrs Jeanne Kirkpatrick, the American representative, called the resolution "obnoxious" and "filled with ominous portent."

BL record sales of £100 million in Italy

In 1981 BL Italia, the company marketing BL cars in Italy sold vehicles worth £100m.

This is a 73% increase on 1980's sales and has increased BL Italia sales to over £100m for the first time.

Since the formation of BL Italia in 1976, sales have increased six fold.

Commenting on the figures Signor Sergio Mia,

Managing Director of BL Italia, said: "The major reason for our improvement is the launch of the Metro which is now selling at a rate of 1,500 a month. In 1982 we launch more new models, including the Triumph Acclaim. I am confident of continued sales growth."

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Washington's 'three Bs' prepare for EEC battle

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Feb 7

A Belgian, a West German and a Dane descend on Washington tomorrow for a three-day exchange of words with three American ministers who are disrespectfully referred to in Brussels as "The three Bs".

According to Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, the meeting should be "an elegant dialogue" about the trading difficulties that exist between Europe and the United States. According to a very senior and angry EEC official last week, "there will be a good deal of blood on the floor".

What threatens to turn the elegant dialogue into a bloodbath is European steel producers' allegedly dumping their heavily subsidised produce on the American market. This, the EEC claims, is causing material damage to the domestic industry.

Wielding a thick dossier of statistics to prove Europe's innocence, the Belgian Industry Commissioner, Viscount Jeanine Davignon, and the West German External Relations Commissioner, Herr Wilhelm Haferkamp, will take on two of the "Bs".

But France, which opens and shuts its frontiers to Italian wine in wilful contradiction of the treaty, is far from being the only EEC member to devise trade barriers against its supposed partners. Every country is currently being prosecuted by the European Court for the practice and the signs are that the habit is growing.

despite earnest Commission efforts to reverse the trend.

Some trade barriers are ingenious. Belgian shops can only sell margarine in cubic containers — and that keeps out West German competitors. Irish shops can only sell certain kinds of furniture with instructions in Gaelic — and that keeps out most people. West German wool cannot be sold in the traditional European standard size of 40 grammes. All chickens imported into Britain have to be free of vaccination — and that keeps out all but Irish birds. All soft drinks in Denmark have to be sold in returnable bottles — and that takes the fizz out of competitors' profits. The list of measures is as varied as the ingenuity of 10 member states can concoct.

France is now pressing for a range of unspecified measures to protect the European market from outside pressures. It is not winning any support in the declared statements of other European leaders, but increasingly the gap is widening between the public political necessity of remaining firm to the principle of free trade and the private economy necessity of protecting internal markets.

There is, however, one very damaging side effect of internal EEC protectionism, which is already causing real concern within the Commission. This is the way in which American investment vital to the European economy is being frightened away by these untreatable barriers.

American companies chose to put money into the EEC during the 60s and 70s because this meant they had a large common market. Now that "Buy French" or "Think British" campaigns are taking hold, potential American investors are looking elsewhere to place their dollars.

The European Commission is preparing for a long, hard trade war ahead on all fronts. But while it sends champions off to the United States to fight for steel and concocts plans to keep out the Japanese, its biggest battle looks likely to be against member states.

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Mrs Tricia Crocker, the widow of the British yachtman murdered in the Caribbean, arriving at Heathrow. Mrs Crocker flew in from Barbados with her husband's body.

Turkish military tighten restrictions on press

Ankara, Feb 7.—Turkey's military rulers announced further restrictions on the press yesterday and banned non-government bodies from inviting or meeting foreign delegations.

The military statement barred the Turkish press from quoting foreign news reports critical of Turkey. It ordered societies, foundations, trade unions, and other bodies to seek the permission of the martial law authorities before inviting foreign delegations.

Permission must also be sought for meetings with any foreign delegation arriving in Turkey uninvited, the statement said. The measures reflect a deterioration in relations between Turkey and the West after criticism of Turkey's military rule last week by the Council of Europe.

General Kenan Evren, the head of state, accused the Council of interfering in Turkey's affairs and hinted that Turkey might withdraw. The press has not been censored since the September, 1980 coup although editors have been warned to stick to guidelines laid down by the generals.

A scheduled visit to Turkey this week by Mr Emile van Lennep, secretary-general of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, was quietly postponed.

Today's military statement was vague. It banned Turkish newspapers from quoting foreign radio stations or other foreign news media "that continue to spread lies and feelings of hatred against Turkey and against the present administration".

Party closes ranks behind Marchais

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Feb 7

The twenty-fourth Congress of the French Communist Party, which ended today, predictably produced no surprises, though it came soon after the party's most resounding electoral defeat since the Second World War.

There was hardly a whisper during the five-day marathon of speeches of the serious crisis which grips the party, the sharp decline in popular support and the mounting financial difficulties.

M Georges Marchais, the architect of this disaster, whose leadership seemed under threat after last June's elections, was triumphantly re-elected as secretary-general for another three-year term.

Only 12 new members were elected to the party's 145-strong Central Committee. But M Georges Seguy, the secretary-general of the Communist-dominated CGT, trade union, left it at his own request. He is also to give up his post as leader of the trade union organisation next June, for health reasons.

The façade of unanimity was successfully maintained at the congress. The final motion was carried by 2,004 votes out of 2,006 delegates, with two abstentions. "The immense majority of Communists have come out in favour of the strategy proposed," Mr Guy Hermerie, a

rising member of the Politburo, declared.

That strategy is twofold: the party intends to be both a party of combat and a party of government, as M Marchais has emphasized. It has four ministers in the Mitterrand coalition Government. One of them, M Charles Fiterman, was given a standing ovation and is seen as the natural successor to the secretary-generalship.

While determined to remain in the Government, the party intends to preserve its militant image, by encouraging "the necessary intervention of the workers" in favour of change, and against the forces of reaction, as M Marchais emphasized in his closing speech today. That is, where the CGT comes in, notably in fomenting unrest over the cuts in the working week.

The party's ambivalent attitude is also apparent in M Marchais' endorsement of the Socialist Government's policy and in his reassertion of his party's pro-Moscow line.

The great debate which has been going on for months in the party at grass-roots level about the breach with the Socialists and the violently anti-socialists line in the four years leading up to the presidential elections, followed by the sudden about-face after them, was hardly mentioned during the congress.

Moi threatens to throw out Kenyan Asians

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi, Feb 7

A bitter attack on Asian businessmen here by President Daniel Arap Moi has shocked and dismayed many of the 80,000 Asians living in Kenya.

President Moi yesterday accused Asians of hoarding, smuggling, and said any Asian doing this would be deported, even if he were a Kenyan citizen. The President was speaking to a delegation from Embu, 120 miles from here, which called on him at State House in Nairobi.

Attacking corruption, he said: "Asians in this country are ruining the economy by smuggling currency out of the country and even hoarding essential goods and selling them through the back door."

"From now on anybody

found hoarding or smuggling will be punished severely. If he is an Asian he will be deported immediately, regardless of whether he is a citizen or not."

There is no apparent reason for the launching of such attacks at this time, but Kenya is undergoing severe economic problems and is suffering shortages of many imported goods.

President Moi appeared to express dissatisfaction with the conduct of some African traders who are used as a front by Asian businessmen. But it is the suggestion that Asians who hold Kenyan citizenship could be deported — and presumably stripped of their citizenship — that has shocked Asians here.

Belgium faced by general strike

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Feb 7

Much of Belgium will be paralysed for 24 hours from midnight by a general strike called in protest at government austerity measures, which have yet to be announced officially.

There will be no trains, law courts, newspapers, buses, post office and telephone services, of creches. A few schools may operate in defiance of picket lines. Hospitals, pharmacies and fire services will run the barest of services. Most of industry is expected to be at a standstill.

The strike has been called by the socialist FGVB union, which is strongest in French-speaking Wallonia, the area which has been hardest hit by Belgium's escalating economic difficulties. In Wallonia the Christian CSC union is also expected to lend its considerable backing to the industrial action. Even in Flanders, where support for the coalition Government is strongest, widespread action looks likely.

The reason for the protest action was made clear last night in a television interview with Mr Wilfried Martens, the Prime Minister. He said he would be using the special powers his Government has just been given to hold down any increase in the national wage bill this year to 3 per cent. Restoring the economy was not an easy task and would involve sacrifices by everyone, he said. "We must work harder and harder."

Mr Martens promised that before introducing new economic measures there would be "real, but brief" consultation with the unions. Lack of agreement would not stop the Government from acting. Only the most impoverished would not have to make sacrifices.

Imposing these sacrifices, which will also entail redundancies in ailing industries, the coalition Government. In particular, the French-speaking Socialist Christian Party (PSC), which is closely linked with the Christian trade union movement, finds itself in difficulties in Wallonia.

This was underlined yesterday by the near unanimous decision of the Christian workers' movement meeting in Namur to form a new political movement. The meeting felt that in supporting the government the PSC was drawing away from the grass roots union support

お母さんへ TO ALL MOTHERS

Let's not send our irreplaceable children to the battlefield.
Now is the time for all mothers of the world to unite
in a drive against military armaments.

Recently, many countries of the world have moved to increase their armaments rather than moving toward disarmament.

This trend, should it continue unchecked, will make it difficult to avoid a third world war which may spell the destruction of mankind. I am deeply worried by this possibility.

After World War II, I was incarcerated for 3 years and 14 days as a "Class A" war crime suspect in Sugamo Prison in Tokyo. During my imprisonment, some 35 years ago, I submitted a plea to General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, as well as to U.S. President Harry Truman. In it, I revealed my willingness to sacrifice my own life if necessary in order to eradicate war and save mankind from its horrors.

From that time on, I have practiced the principles of the universal brotherhood of mankind in the belief that "the world is one family, all people are brothers and sisters." Today I continue to call for total disarmament, and for the creation of a lasting peace which transcends politics, economics, philosophies, religious beliefs, race and national boundaries.

Wars produce a thousand evils, and no good. To end them and to establish a lasting peace requires more than a mere reduction of nuclear warheads or conventional weapons. An absolute prerequisite for permanent peace is total disarmament. Countries opposed to complete disarmament are enemies of peace. And as these countries pose a threat to all mankind, other nations of the world must join in solidarity to blockade them economically. If this can be done, these countries will be forced to end their intransigence, no matter how powerful they may be.

Today, the world's annual military expenditures exceed \$550 billion. If total disarmament is achieved, this money can be reallocated to further the welfare of

mankind. Precious lives will not be lost, and natural resources will not be wasted.

With these things in mind, I am appealing to the mothers of the world to join forces and establish "Mothers for Peace" organizations dedicated to ending war and to furthering the movement to abolish military armaments.

There is no woman, regardless of her nationality, who bears and raises her children so that they may die on the battlefield. Rather, they carry their children, give birth to them, and would sacrifice themselves to protect them from harm.

I appeal to all mothers from the bottom of my heart to support and cooperate with this initiative to abolish all armaments which might otherwise take the lives of their children in wars.

If you agree with these sentiments, regardless of whether you're a woman or a man, I'd like to hear your opinion concerning this problem, which concerns us all. Please send me a postcard or letter, and please include your name, address, occupation and age.



佐々木良一
Ryoichi Sasakawa
(82 years of age)

President
World Society for the Memorialization
of War Victims

Office of the Committee of Mothers for Peace
Blue Sea and Green Land Foundation
P.O. Box 16, Fukagawa Post Office
Tokyo 135-91, Japan.

Respect your parents and elderly people. Take care of ill people.

Carrington in Malaysia to mend trade fences

From David Watts Kuala Lumpur, Feb 7

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, begins tomorrow his most ticklish diplomatic task in three years — to patch up relations with Malaysia, which has reached its lowest ebb for a quarter of a century.

Not since he mended fences with the Saudis after the showing on British television of the film *Death of a Princess* has the Foreign Secretary faced a problem of such complexity, and of such economic importance to Britain. Malaysia's preference for non-British products has cost British companies at least £15.5m in the past few weeks, and could cost many times that in lost orders in the near future.

Among the deals that may depend on the success of the Foreign Secretary's visit are an order for the best-selling British Aerospace Hawk trainer/ground attack aircraft, and a regular annual contract for Leyland lorries.

The Royal Malaysian Air Force requires 26 jet trainers, of which British Aerospace hopes to supply at least a part. But competition is strong from cheaper and less sophisticated rivals from Italy and Brazil.

A regular contract with British Leyland for the supply of army lorries is part of the 9,000m Malaysian Government intends to spend on manpower, bases and equipment for the police and armed forces under the fourth Malaysia Plan between 1981 and 1985.

Britain has always been in the forefront as a supplier of military equipment to Kuala Lumpur, but with the office of Dr Mahathir Mohammed, the Prime Minister, monitoring all government contracts with Britain, that lead will be reduced.

Under rules introduced last October, the Prime Minister's office inspects all British Government bids and contracts and, unless there is no alternative supplier available, awards the contract to the next lowest bidder. Within the last few weeks, a £13m contract for the construction of a power station at Klang, 25 miles east of the capital, has been lost, and a £2.3m consultancy on energy-related construction work in the north-east state of Terengganu has gone to an American company, after a British bid on which the Matthew Hall company had been working for two years, had been rejected.

In the long-term, Malaysia's 42,800m dollar development plan has many opportunities for British companies, if the present resistance to things British can be overcome. Lord Carrington's task is a sensitive one, and quick results are not expected.

British officials say that Lord Carrington has nothing immediate to offer. He comes, as he said in his first speech on arrival, "to listen and learn". He has emphasized that "relations between Malaysia and Britain must be based on mutual respect and equality".

In Dr Mahathir Mohammed he is dealing with a complex and determined man, whose resentment of the British and the handling of their £1,000m worth of interests in Malaysia has reached a peak of intensity with a speech by the High Commissioner, Mr William Bentley, and what the Malaysian Government saw as an attempt by the British to prevent the Malaysians from buying up British holdings in the country.

After unions and Ulster, what next for the great persuader?



Cabinet reshuffle: September, 1981

Putting a cheerful face on the move from Employment to Northern Ireland



Belfast: November, 1981

Leaving the funeral of MP Robert Bradford, murdered by the IRA

Asked to describe Mrs Thatcher's ways of picking her men in Northern Ireland, one Conservative MP once offered the following explanation: "In 1975 she won the election for the party leadership largely thanks to the efforts of Airey Neave. Brave man that he was, he was not truly shadow cabinet material. What was he given? Northern Ireland. Four years later she won the confidence vote and hence the election largely thanks to the efforts of Humphrey Atkins. He was not cabinet material either and what did he get? Northern Ireland".

He was speaking, of course, before Mrs Thatcher geared up her interest in Ireland and began her summits with Irish leaders. He was also speaking before James Prior took over the secretary of state's pale green and white office with its mock Doric columns along the walls and the glow over the soggy Stormont parliament.

Northern Ireland and its problems are now interlocked with the career of a man whose possibilities fascinate. As the open cabinet confrontations on economic strategy fail to materialize, Prior's performance in Belfast affects not only Britain's longest, aching crisis but also his rating in the game of speculative permutations about the next parliament. If it's hung, who will lead the Tories into negotiation with the Alliance?

Four months into a job which he so publicly did not want, Prior gives every impression of enjoying himself as he fences with Mr John Z de Lorean and reaches the "red meat" of the negotiations preceding his political initiative. He rates one recent week's agenda, which included an economic cabinet, a briefing on the initiative for back benches, the de Lorean crunch and sundry speeches across the country, the most strenuous week he has ever spent in government.

Interminable hours are now spent in an RAF plane flying between Northolt and Aldergrove airports instead of Norwich City, he occasionally watches the Belfast team Glentoran. He fancies the prospect of watching some racing, but the last hot tip from one of his special branch men that he put money on was a loser.

His background has equipped him with a robust education for a strange job — one which the holder himself is supposed to work to abolish. His father was a prosperous East Anglian lawyer who became a tea merchant; he was powerfully affected by his experiences as an official receiver in South Wales during the depression, when his duties included winding up farms which had gone bust. To encourage early financial self reliance, Prior senior equipped James with a cheque book at the tender age of 14.

Elements of Prior appear in the character of Peter Morrison, an MP in the ten-year cycle *Along for Oblivion* by Prior's Charterhouse contemporary Simon Raven. Morrison appears as a staunch, decent and slightly stuffy schoolboy, taking his friends round his father's sunlit "Norfolk desamnes".

The same novel, *Fighting Gray* gives Morrison a line which could stand up as the motto of Prior's pragmatism. "The mess is there," said Peter. "Something must be done." One Prior-watchdog even expressed fear that this briskness might be brought up short by the stubborn lessons of Irish history.

"The trouble with Jim is that because of the nature of the man, if he thinks there is something to be done, he will go and do it. He does not think there is a problem that needs a political solution."

The Suffolk and Essex farmer growing corn for the Coop and peas for Birdseye became an MP in the 1959 election and attached himself to Edward Heath, who he served as parliamentary private secretary for five years. His ambitious wife, Jane, established in her husband's Commons career that the family came too. She and the four children now all grown up, travelled to London when he did. Prior has held directorships in firms dealing with

anything from boats and biscuits to lipstick.

After the Ministry of Agriculture the leadership of the Commons and the miners election of 1974, Heath made him employment spokesman, a job which he was told to hold for an unusually long stretch of seven years. According to one friend, he was cast into gloom by the news that he was to stay in the job under the new leader. Had he been cast as the whipping boy of a party which was hardening its face against unions whose memories of 1974 were still fresh?

He doggedly set out to reorganize Tory contacts with the unions, widening by degrees the circle prepared to talk freely to him, lubricating the process with supper parties for the leaders and their wives at his London flat. The same friend remembers him calling triumphantly on the night James Callaghan announced that he would not call an election in October 1978. Prior's antennae told him that the unions were planning a winter which would be a disaster for the Tories and which would hand the Conservatives the election.

He laced his ministerial pronouncement with words which carried echoes of alternative leadership but which skirted the explicit economic bluster voiced by Sir Ian Gilmour and Peter Walker. "I want to try and hold this country together and to bring out the qualities which actually get people working together..." "You have got to work with the grain of society and we always have..." "The country is crying out for leadership..."

It makes for an irresistible comparison with Stanley Baldwin whose career Prior respects and whose coalition-juggling job he may one day be imitating. Baldwin defended the trade unions political

levy against his own right wing; Prior was christened "Fussyfoot" by the critics of his union bill who said that his nerve had been broken by 1974. Prior's informal advisors include Sussex University political historian and Baldwin biographer, Keith Middlemas.

Carefully nurtured press contacts paid dividends and there was only one exception. He was rapidly traced as the source of a leak that British Steel's chairman might be prematurely retired; Mrs Thatcher issued a matronly and humiliating rebuke. A year later a Thatcherite whisperer suggested to the *Daily Express* that Prior and Joe Gormley had been holding conspiratorial meetings behind the back of a cabinet wrestling with a confrontation over pit closures. Reiterating that the source of the smear had been "Within the government" the paper withdrew.

Having known for several months that Northern Ireland was on the cards, Prior attempted the notorious bluff which was called "Gambled," he said later "and it did not entirely come off." He not only retained his membership of the "E" committee on economic strategy, but bargained to take two members of his coterie with him to Stormont. Humphrey Atkins had already assured one of his junior ministers who was subsequently moved to make room for one of Prior's new arrivals that he could leave on a trip to Australia secure in the knowledge that he would be staying in his job. The only man Prior failed to persuade to accompany him was his driver.

The "E" committee sometimes meets immediately after the Cabinet on Thursday morning but has also met on Wednesdays making the minister shuttle back from Stormont a day early.

His remaining London-based political adviser, Robert Shepherd, keeps watch while he is gone. Prior is now

deprived of the macro-economic briefs which used to be provided by the Department of Employment's economists. The backbenchers who identify with him murmur that he is now less accessible and less visible.

All this however matters less than he feared. He has pointed out to colleagues how Northern Ireland makes some mileage on television news almost every night. He is evidently enjoying ruling the wide range of mini departments which operate in his province. He can reflect on the fact that while Westminster may regard the place as a black hole, no secretary of state so far has left the job with his reputation measurably worse. His tenure cannot be much longer than two years and he has one clear shot at some political progress. "Some people say do nothing for five years, get the security right. I do not want to be just a proconsul who has nothing to do with politics. The place is alive with politics."

Whatever the fate of the initiative, his early approach shows an edge over his predecessor. Devolving some government somehow clearly takes precedence for the rest of this government over Anglo Irish military or the disengagement reflexes of disillusioned ministers. Prior proceeds with this clear principle firmly established; local politicians tempted by boycott or sabotage have to reckon that nothing else will turn up before 1983.

He has clearly dropped Atkins's assumption that nothing could move without complete agreement on what it should be. He is only looking for enough signs of acquiescence to know that whatever he announces will not be dismissed out of hand. He professes to see some signs of "renewal" among local politicians. He has already produced one important credential: a £90m aid package, considerably in excess of expectations and similarly in excess of money allocated to Scotland and Wales. Catholic and nationalist interest in the "Irish Dimension" (otherwise decoded as "progress towards reunification") is kept alive by Lord Gowrie, who has cast himself in the role of the man who chills the unionist spines from time to time. He recently wondered out loud if Northern Ireland people might not hold both Irish and British passports simultaneously.

Prior operates on a theory of linkage: "Politics, economics and security go hand in hand here". He feels that the 1976-79 Labour Government failed to take the opportunity it was creating by pumping money into the province. "It was a pity they did not pressurize the unionists more into saying what the price of economic aid is going to be." Prior's price is cooperation. And he explicitly rejects the Unionist view that security can be treated alone and ahead of any other priority: "I am the last person to say that we have got on top of it. In modern society you just don't get on top of it by sheer force. You have to do it politically."

The negotiations have convinced him that his "leverage is not really very great". One of the few constructive lessons available from the traumas of 1981 was that sensitive experiments will not automatically trip off disasters. "The Catholic community was close to the brink during the hunger strikes, the Protestant community was close to it after Bradford's murder and the killings on the border, but they never went over the top."

The initiative may well be accompanied by ritual discoveries that there is a "ground swell" or "yearning" for reconciliation and successful political arrangements which have eluded so many governments for so long. Any momentum of the moment is entirely the creation of James Prior, who has done much of the creation by thinking aloud to most of the politicians he meets and most of the journalists who see him — a style which has scared his officials but not led him into any catastrophes so far. But the real tests are still to come.

George Brock



Bloodied but unbowed: Thai soldiers after a battle with Khun Sa's troops.

Thais tame warlord's town

From Neil Kelly, Ban Therd Thai, Thailand, Feb 7

Thailand gave this mountain town five miles from Burma a new name over the weekend to mark its recapture from Khun Sa, the Burmese warlord who dominates the narcotics trade in the Golden Triangle.

Thai forces last month drove him and his private army out of the town which they had ruled like mandarins for a decade. The town was called Ban Hin Taek, but Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, daughter of King Bhumibol, chose the new name, Ban Therd Thai, which means "village uplifted to freedom".

Thai authorities are trying to reassert the control which Khun Sa was allowed to seize in 1972. A new Thai flag flies over the centre and three battalions of troops are quartered here. Until a few days ago the nearest military post was two miles away.

Yesterday 200 paramilitary rangers fought a two-hour battle four miles from the town with 30 of Khun Sa's men, killing three of them

without suffering casualties themselves.

Almost all the population of 1,650, mainly Burmese Shans and Chinese Yunnaneses, fled during last month's fighting but 70 per cent have now returned. Two small sections of the town were destroyed, largely by Khun Sa's men as they blew up stores of ammunition.

Otherwise the prosperous town which Khun Sa built with profits from his drug empire is intact. Strongly built concrete and brick houses and shops are a contrast with primitive bamboo and leaf shacks in neighbouring villages.

There is running water and electricity in most houses, from a new 220,000 generator. The 100-bed hospital built by Khun Sa is superior to many in larger, less isolated communities.

Khun Sa's own house stands in a commanding position above the town. Personal possessions are scattered everywhere: clothing, books, children's toys,

pot and pans, ornaments, a television set.

Nearby is the imposing residence of his chief of staff and the public relations office of Khun Sa's Shan United Army. Here a press is still in working order. Tape recorders and film cameras produced material publicizing the army's cause: the liberation of the Shan people from Burmese rule.

The town has two guest houses for distinguished visitors. Thai Army officers and many well-known Thai military men and politicians had been among Khun Sa's guests. The Government will use Khun Sa's properties for the benefit of the local community.

The location of the town partly explains why Khun Sa and his drug empire went unmolested by the Government for so long. For half the year during the hot season it is virtually cut off from the outside world. Even now a helicopter or a vehicle with four-wheel drive is needed to reach the town.

Slump takes the pep out of Costa Rican election

San José, Costa Rica, Feb 7

Costa Rica, Central America's showpiece democracy, is voting today in general and presidential elections overshadowed by the country's worst economic crisis in more than three decades of political stability.

The 1.2 million Costa Ricans eligible to vote appear far more concerned with food shortages, high inflation and high unemployment than in voting themselves in a national election campaign.

After almost a decade of spending more than it earned, this tiny republic now finds itself with a \$2,600m (£1,400m) foreign debt which it cannot start repaying. The economic slump is of such proportions that the presidential candidates have avoided detailing their planned solutions.

One victim of the crisis looks likely to be the ruling Unity grouping, a broad-based coalition led by President Rodrigo Carazo Odio, who under the constitution cannot run again for office.

All the opinion polls point to a comfortable victory for Unity's main rival, the National Liberation Party (PLN), and its presidential

candidate, Señor Luis Alberto Monge.

Señor Monge blames the Government for the crisis and that his centrist party, traditionally a big public spender, sowed the seeds of the crisis.

Costa Ricans are used to one of the highest standards of living in Latin America.

The divide between rich and poor is smaller than in El Salvador and Guatemala and the abolition of the Army more than 30 years ago removed the possibility of a coup.

The boom days for Costa Rica ended when world prices of its vital coffee exports fell.

A scarcity of dollars and pressure on Costa Rica's currency, the colon, forced the Government into a formal devaluation last year. The colon now trades at around 40 to the dollar compared with a previous official value of 8.5.

This year's campaign lacks the colourful parades and spontaneous political gatherings of past years. The fear of violence is growing.

—Reuters.

Economic emergency in Bolivia

La Paz, Feb 7

Government employees will get pay rises, but the price of basic foods will be frozen and public spending curbed under Bolivia's emergency economic package, details of which were revealed yesterday.

The military Government has devalued the peso, in an attempt to stop the country going bankrupt, and has outlined a number of other measures.

Government sources said that petrol prices would rise by between 33 and 43 per cent, pushing up transport costs. To compensate for this, Government employees would receive pay rises of between 17 and 130 per cent.

Bolivia's "crisis" from a chronic shortage of foreign exchange, which has been exacerbated by the world economic recession.

Reserves were virtually exhausted by the end of last year and the country is saddled with a \$3,500m (£2,000m) external debt.

President Torrello said that Bolivia's economic predicament was caused by its poor use of foreign loans, high interest rates on its short term debts, and the exorbitant cost of luxury imports.

Soon after President Torrello announced the new measures on television, the armed forces confirmed their confidence in his Government, and called on the population to give it their "patriotic support". President Torrello, an army general, came to power in a coup last year. —Reuters.

When mother love was born

Elisabeth Badinter, the 37-year-old wife of the French Minister of Justice, argues coolly — that there is no such thing as natural maternal instinct, that it is a culturally acquired emotion.

In support of her argument she has written a book detailing the historical evidence of the lack of maternal instinct in French women over the past 200 years.

Needless to say, the book, published next Thursday, *The Myth of Motherhood* (Souvenir Press, £8.95, £5.95 paperback) has roused considerable criticism in France. Psychologists, paediatricians, educationalists and the clergy have all denounced it. Although she was the first woman to be appointed a full professor at the Ecole Polytechnique in Paris, in person Mme Badinter is gentle and looks younger than her years. She speaks quietly, softly and convincingly of her ideas, and she is the obviously affectionate mother of three children, Judith, 15, Robert, 13, and Benjamin, 11.

"Maternal love is not deeply rooted in women's natures," she says. "If it were, we could observe it everywhere. It would be universal. But if you study history, especially the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in France, you see that women quite easily gave up their babies. English women, too, especially aristocratic women, had similar attitudes."

Elisabeth Badinter says that the concept of the child as a precious being, a frail creature needing love and tender care, came with the new science of demographics, the writings of Rousseau and the rise of the bourgeoisie.

"The mother-dominated family is an ideological invention of the nineteenth century," she says. "Concerned about falling population and the number of infant deaths, French authorities started emphasizing hygienic home care for infants, and the 'new mother' came essentially from the new middle class."

"By accepting responsibility for her children's upbringing the middle class woman became the central axis of the family... The holy domestic monarch."



As evidence she cites detailed statistics: "In 1780 Jean Charles Pierre Lenoir, lieutenant-general of the Paris police, noted, not without some bitterness that only 1,000 of the 21,000 babies born each year in Paris were being breast fed by their mothers. Another 1,000 newborns, children of privileged families, were breast fed by live-in wet nurses. The rest were taken from their mothers and sent to wet nurses outside Paris. The poorer the child, the further it was sent, sometimes as far as Normandy or Burgundy."

The practice was not confined to Paris. It occurred in most French cities. In Lyon, for example, Prost de Loyer, a police lieutenant pointed out, "there are close to 6,000 births yearly. Out of these there are at most 1,000 whose parents can supply good nurses. The others are cast off to wretched cities."

silk workers, shopkeepers and other artisans who worked alongside their husbands could not afford to take time off to nurse their own babies.

Peasants in the country generally did not give up their own children unless they were extremely poor, in which case they would abandon their own babies in order to be paid for nursing a city child.

Not even all aristocratic babies were kept at home. A typical case was the great statesman Charles Maurice de Talleyrand, who was baptised on the day of his birth in 1754 in Paris and handed over to a wet nurse immediately afterwards.

She took him to her home in an outlying district. During more than four years his mother did not visit him even once, nor did she ever inquire about him. For instance, she was quite unaware that an accident had left her son with a club foot.

"It would be senseless to speak of mother love during this period," Elisabeth Badinter says. "When society does not put pressure on women to keep their children you find that women do something else. It was true in ancient Rome as well."

She also criticizes the authors who led the "maternal revolution" — Rousseau and his twentieth-century counterpart Freud.

"They had the same definition of what is a 'normal woman'. They said that woman could be fulfilled only in giving birth and mothering a child. They saw women as passive, masochistic and

narcissistic. I completely disagree with this, and with the concept of Freudian guilt."

She added that it was well known now that a child needed love to develop well, but it was better to be a mother one hour a day, but happy and working, than a frustrated mother for 24 hours a day. "Motherhood is not washing clothes!"

She sees parallels between the aristocratic French women of the eighteenth century and the professional women of today.

"Women in the eighteenth century didn't feel guilty of not taking care of their children. And now we don't feel as guilty as we used to."

The great hope for the future, she says, is in the growing phenomenon of paternal love. Her own husband, Robert Badinter, has always helped her take care of the children.

In the future she thinks men will share in the pressure to be good parents.

"For centuries men repressed tenderness and emotion towards babies and little children," she says. "Now they are discovering pleasures they never knew. I don't think it will enslave them. They will still be men, just more pleasant for women to live with."

In fact, she says, if the trend continues she would not be surprised to find a new theory of the paternal instinct emerging.

Rosemarie Wittman Lamb

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THE ARTS

Television

Breaking uneven

Melvin Bragg appeared briefly on the South Bank Show last night to hand over to Germaine Greer. I began by thinking that was uncommonly handsome of him but, before the end, concluded it was a doctored rash. In figure he might reflect where good intentions can lead.

Miss Greer was talking about the Art of the Ad. Specifically, the television commercial, not those which punctuated her performance — and on this occasion the unusual breaks seemed less intrusive — but television advertising in general and what she considers the best particular.

Miss Greer's father, she informed us at the outset, was a seller of advertising space, an occupation that passes through periods of great travail, and it may be that she was unconsciously reacting to a well-provided cushioned life, giving her bottom without due care and attention.

Whatever the motivation, she talked a lot of rot. British advertising has been technically good for many years and even had advertisements, those which grab us by the back of the neck and inform us we could do without, can be technically good while being aesthetically, socially and psychologically morose.

A lot of money is spent on making them and Miss Greer, in her Alice in Wonderland role, had discovered that a 30-second commercial can equal or exceed the cost of a half-hour programme. The point about commercials is that, no matter how expensive they are, or how sophisticated visually, they are intrusive. It is true that they are less welcome if they are clever, or humorous, or both. But if, for instance, you were watching *Brilliant* you would not (unless you were Miss Greer) jump up and say "Whoopee" when you saw the "End of Part One" to herald the commercials.

Miss Greer took no account of this, nor did she appear aware that good commercials — those that entertain as well as sell — are dependent not only on the agency but on the client who is selling the product and the market that product is aimed at.

I had no quarrel with her choice of advertisements — all were visually excellent — just with her approach and general naivete. She took us through her choices like a newly-qualified remedial teacher.

She explained every facet of the Cinzano Bianco commercial — the one in which Leonard Rossiter tips his drink over Joan Collins; announced that she could watch the Fiat Strada commercial — "hand-made by Robots" — every day; thought it sheer genius to have married Italian music to an Italian car (maybe Wagner had the wrong beat); and told the director Hugh Hudson how clever he had been to get the sound of nuts falling in one of his commercials. He explained it had just happened.

It was like that — all gush and garbage. "I allowed myself to be misled," she said before taking to Lester Enokbinder, a director and, for many years, a superb still photographer. He appeared looking remarkably unneeded in the circumstances, explaining that in advertising no one was asked to make anything other than a positive statement. He, I thought, would have made a greater intellectual contribution to such a programme than Miss Greer.

She ended by telling us that in hard times the best went first and appeared to be urging the formation of some kind of society to protect good advertising, which she put at the improbably high figure of ten per cent.

I could not work up my usual enthusiasm for BBC's *World About Us*, which told the story of the Samurai from Twickenham, a 35-year-old airline pilot who began with judo, got his black belt in Japan, taught himself the language, married a Japanese, became obsessed with the Samurai and was eventually accepted as one of them.

We followed him to Japan to see him become the first foreigner to take part in the *Soma Wild Horse Chase*, a Samurai event that sounded more exciting in prospect than it looked. It needed a Kurosawa to make it work, but the pilot was fine and I would feel safe flying with him. You have to be careful what you say about a Samurai.

Dennis Hackett

Rising joyously to the fleeting occasion



The bold simplicity and directness of Mestrovic's poster for an exhibition; and (right) the delicate rococo side in Cardinaux's poster for "Die Wilden Schwäne"

The Art of the Poster in Austria and Germany 1900-1920

The Art of Radio Times

Even the finest of fine artists do not always live in ivory towers. Indeed some of them never do. Bread and butter has to be earned and what is there, after all, so demeaning about working to a commission and a deadline? Sometimes the result will be hardly more than adequate. But sometimes the pressures, excitement and disciplines of the situation give a sense of occasion to which the artist, like an actor on first night, may triumphantly rise.

It is quite possible, therefore, to prefer the graphic work of some of the artists included in Fischer Fine Art's show of mainly Jugendstil posters from central and eastern Europe to their easel paintings. Franz von Stuck's paintings can easily be flashy and more than a little vulgar; but his posters for various art shows in Munich during the 1900s pull him together remarkably and reveal a strong sense of vital form under the sexy Symbolist trappings. Peter Behrens, being primarily an architect, industrial designer and graphic artist, we would expect to come up with strong designs perfectly calculated for their form and purpose, but the poster by the Yugoslav sculptor Mestrovic for an art show in Zagreb comes as a very pleasing bonus, with its bold simplicity and directness.

Galleries

Devil of a tale

Moon Mill

The final Unicorn production before the Arts goes dark for much-needed renovation, Moon Mill continues the company's fertile association with the remarkable children's writer Joan Aiken. Like her previous plays, it is a fantasy set in the modern world, reading mythological patterns into everyday events, and striving to transform the Britain of supermarkets and motorways into a magical landscape. But this is the first time that she has gone to the length of involving the Devil in a science-fiction plot.

The piece is built on the idea of mills as ancient sources of power, linked with the mysterious "ley line" trackways criss-crossing the country. The mill in question is threatened with demolition as it stands on the site of a proposed East Anglian airport; the author of this bit of bureaucratic villainy being Lucifer, who sees the mill's lift-off as a means of catapulting himself back into the upper regions.

My feeling that Miss Aiken has overreached herself this time was strengthened by finding that the mill is occupied by a Nobel scientist and his ballerina sister, both busily grinding corn, even though there is no village for miles around; that Lucifer's imp turns up in the shape of a schoolboy kidnapped by his divorced father; and that even the local garage man goes in for devil-raising.

The plot is heavily overloaded at the expense of character and dialogue. What remains undimmed is Miss Aiken's authority as a storyteller. The events may criss-cross like tracks on an old map, but she never loses her power to say: this is what happens next. Nicholas Barker's production contains some stridently pushing performances, but it also conveys a strong sense of ceremonial magic calmly supervised by Hazel Penwarden, a white witch to her fingertips.

Irving Wardle

Opera

A Mimi untouched by the years

Thursday could well have seen the return of Franco Zeffirelli to Covent Garden. Plans, kept under distinctly protective wraps, had been made for him to direct and design a new production of Verdi's *La Traviata*, which he wanted to dedicate to the memory of Maria Callas. The financing was only possible through a film, for the cinema rather than television, and the problems of lining up studios, artists and costumes proved impossible in the time available. So a revival of *La Bohème* was whisked in instead.

Covent Garden is still likely to have its new *Traviata* — the designs are all there waiting — but not for the moment. Zeffirelli's film version is probably coming first and the theatre will have to follow the studios.

The present *Bohème* revival has been built around the two principals of that promised *Traviata*: Ileana Cotrubas and Neil Shicoff. And in the event it is Mme Cotrubas who steals the evening away from everyone. Mimi was tailor-made for her. The years do not stale this interpretation of girl-woman, part flirt and part waif. Ileana Cotrubas insists that it is Mimi who changes the lives of all those whom she meets; Rodolfo grows up a little; Marcello at the final curtain clasps his Musetta; even Colline has cleaned up a bit.

The voice has the touch of sadness in the timbre that makes the early death come as no surprise, but there is also the strength to ride the orchestra, pushed pretty

hard by Lamberto Gardelli at some moments, above every one else. At first she has eyes for no one but Rodolfo, adoring him as he narrates the story of his life at the cast of a glance. He writes

fine verses and she only creates artificial flowers; it is no consideration that they both come from paper.

Neil Shicoff, who has sung many roles more demanding than Rodolfo, was curiously ill at ease during the first half of the evening. The production, as it now stands, turns the Bohemians into egotists. Failures they may be, as poets and musicians, painters and philosophers, but defeat is never admitted — there is always a certain Englishman to be consoled for the price of a meal. Shicoff, however, overdid the arrogance and during "Che gelida manina" the voice was tight at the top. It lacks tenderness.

Cotrubas relaxed him by the third act, which was, by far, the most successful of the four. It got off to an exceptional start with the encounter of Mimi and Marcello, in the shape of Thomas Allen. These two artists strike warmth from one another and it is a combination to be considered for other operas, including that *Traviata*.

The principal newcomer to Covent Garden's *Bohème*, apart from Zeffirelli, is the 11, who provided a wealth of colour and yet a certain brusqueness in the pit, was Marilyn Zschau as Musetta. She is lumbered with a lap dog — no wonder the head waiter at the Café Monus wiped his hands down his apron after touching it — and is portrayed as *une femme d'un certain âge*. (Her escort, the unhappy Alcandro, is appropriately younger than usual.) Her brasserie and auburn hair contrast well with Cotrubas's delicate features, but she could do with the Romanian soprano's control of the upper register.

As a hastily arranged revival this *Bohème* has vigour and two outstanding interpretations from Ileana Cotrubas and Thomas Allen. But let that *Traviata* be not too far away.

John Higgins

Dance

Wall. In the pas de quatre Michael Batchelor and Phillip Broadhead gave the best performance I have seen for a long time and Ravena Tucker was charming in the first girl's variation.

Nice performances also came from Fiona Chadwick and Rosalyn Whitten in the pas de trois, although I wish Whitten could look a little less worried when she dances.

Marguerite Porter certainly has the looks for the role of the Swan Queen. Tall,

Theatre

Subsidized sparkle

A Distant Applause

The room is too small. When the word gets out, and the success of the theatrical incubator that is part of Carlo Lange's restaurant, La Bonne Crêpe on Maddox Street, WI, becomes known, it will not hold the people who would enjoy the results. As a sort of one-man Arts Council, Mr Lange has been subsidizing a songwriter, a playwright and a string of actors. They work hard for their subsidy, sometimes as waiters, but every step of their progress is visible in the shows which play from Wednesday to Saturday evenings.

After something like 20 shows in two and a half years, the house playwright, Paul Prescott, has passed through the first stage of his apprenticeship to find his own voice. In *A Distant Applause* that voice is distinctive: comic, pathetic, musical and, most of all, entertaining. He tells an original story about a comedy team in an end-of-pier

show as they come to the end of a season and perhaps the end of their partnership.

In a sense, he is still springing from a cliché, but his craftsmanship transcends the familiarity of the scene. He sets the story firmly in place. While exploring the personal relationship, he writes backstage banter and conversation which tellingly describes unseen characters, such as the next-door showgirl "aged somewhere between Hayley Mills and death".

The on-stage act is just original enough to show the position of the team, battering life to a routine tinged by the price of a cup of tea. The promise of greater things, Mr Prescott takes the part of the straight man, carrying a secret worry on-stage and off, and gets from his opposite number, Roland Viner, a performance of such sparkling vitality and optimism that the whole relationship is absolutely convincing.

This time La Bonne Crêpe is offering a portion of real theatre, not just a diversion between the pancake and the coffee.

Ned Chaillet

Philharmonia/Ashkenazy

Festival Hall

Safely returned, earlier last week, from a busy concert tour of Japan together, Vladimir Ashkenazy and the Philharmonia Orchestra, whose principal guest conductor he has become, on Friday began to show London what they played in the Orient, and how on the tour Ashkenazy played the piano and conducted every concert. At this first home-coming concert he remained on the rostrum, and left the small but prominent piano part in Rachmaninov's *Symphonic Dances* to the orchestra's regular pianist, Michael Rabin.

This last sentence will indicate that their repertoire in Japan was not all old hat. The *Symphonic Dances* were Rachmaninov's last major composition, the only one he wrote in America, and the ultimate ruin of his debut in the United States. Then, and thereafter, his music became leaner and more athletic, the heart now worn beneath the sleeve, though pulsating as strongly as ever.

The *Symphonic Dances*, a lightweight symphony designed for a ballet, seem to me the crown of all Rachmaninov's music: masterly themes, ideally balanced, personal, exquisitely imagined for orchestra, purged of romantic pretentiousness. The sensuous music, whether subsidiary or principal in importance, remains entirely characteristic, but has sometimes seemed influenced by Hollywood musicals of the 1930s.

Ashkenazy's reading, the work of an experienced Rachmaninov specialist, supported that idea, and the notion of the work's symphonic poetry. The movements contrasted more firmly than usual, each new idea given its own personality, fully deduced, for example the violin melody at the end of the first dance, and the alto saxophone solo (John Harle's style was recognizable, before I looked at the platform or the programme).

It was a superior reading, likewise of Scriabin's "Reverie", an early, sensuous piece of which Ashkenazy made surprisingly much, by colouring and rubato, for an English listener quite close to favourite Delius short works of the same period, the turn of the century. Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony* was affectionately done, with feathery strings, and liquid wind solo. None of the three were audible in any of the three works, even some essential harmony notes.

William Mann

Australian CO

Wigmore Hall

The vigour of Australian enterprise is not something that this paper finds extraordinary, yet even so it was a distinct pleasure to find an ensemble from Sydney performing so strongly at their British debut concert on Thursday. The Australian Chamber Orchestra are a tight group of 13 string players who prove that a conductor is an unnecessary luxury when smallness of size coincides with completeness of musicianship. They bounced as one through the children's games of Britten's *Simple Symphony* right at the start of their programme, and had no problems, even with the fiddling tempo they chose for the finale of Mendelssohn's ninth string symphony.

Nor did they need anyone to encourage them to produce a big, full tone or to guide them in elegance of phrasing. The sound came forward with an almost corporeal presence and

Concerts

Philharmonia/Ashkenazy

depth, though with a cleanliness of attack that kept it from being at all stodgy, and particularly again in the Mendelssohn, there was a confident grasp of how important proportion and weight are to the projection of melody. Given their skill here, I would have liked to have heard them in some real baroque and classical music, not just in Mendelssohn's very appealing counterpoints.

The only other possible disappointment was that an orchestra from half a way round the world should sound so little different in terms of musical approach from one nearer home, but merely better. That, however, is a comment on the standardization of our musical culture, and there was at least a taste of regional fare in Peter Sculthorpe's *Lament*, composed for this ensemble in 1976.

I had heard nothing of Sculthorpe since the 1960s, when he was into south-east Asian music and bright simple soundscapes. Evidently things have changed. This *Lament* — claimed by the composer as one of his favourite recent works, which was nice to know — has more to do with Brahms than Bali. It is a very unambitious, little, slow movement dwelling on a cello theme that Sculthorpe would like to think reveals "a characteristic debt to Mahler", perhaps forgetting that Mahler's ideas tended to be considerably more sophisticated and very much more fully developed.

Paul Griffiths

ECO/Kraemer

Queen Elizabeth Hall

The first movement of Mozart's *Symphony No. 33* was given a dance-like lilt by Nicholas Kraemer and the English Chamber Orchestra on Friday. Yet there was no lack of due weight, least of all in the development section, where the composer appears to indulge some early anticipations of the finale of the *Jupiter Symphony*. The Andante, although the ECO strings produced a lively tone, as usual, just missed the requisite warmth, but the Minuet sounded quite bucolic.

After music with such an Austrian accent, No. 33's finale seems almost like a tarantella, although Mr Kraemer unobtrusively pointed the difference between the hurrying triplets and the movements' underlying 2/4 pulse. Such finesse of ensemble was not immediately apparent in Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 27*, and some features of the opening tutti were less decisively shaped than one might have wished.

Michele Boegner started rather prosaically, too, and there were some flat and literal statements from the keyboard.

However, things gradually warmed up, if one may use such an expression of music as angelic as this. What happened was that the major minor key equivocations of the development section drew ever more engaged playing from soloist and orchestra. Not surprisingly, this carried over into the Larghetto, where from the start, both Miss Boegner and the ECO achieved a poise and depth of expression that were rather exceptional.

The economical virtuosity the pianist displayed in Mozart's finale served different ends in Faure's early Ballade. This is a one-movement piece in which the soloist is constantly at work, but the expression is predominantly lyrical. Despite the successful aspects of the Mozart performance, one felt that Miss Boegner had a closer affinity with Faure and it was a pleasure to hear the Ballade.

Finally came Richard Strauss's *Metamorphosen*. "Autumnal" scarcely seems

a strong enough word for this highly wrought lament, especially as Mr Kraemer's reading showed how powerfully motivated it is.

Max Harrison

Nash Ensemble

Wigmore Hall

A programme emphasising the known rather than the obscure or forgotten drew an outside audience on Saturday night for the last of the Nash Ensemble's six concerts that have played so stimulating a part in the current Russian series at Wigmore Hall.

Looking back over the varied assortment of works permitted by this group apparently limitless instrumental permutations, surely gratitude is primarily due for the rarities taken down from library shelves. Though Saturday night's act of rescue was disappointingly insubstantial in comparison with earlier discoveries, opportunities of hearing student exercises by Tchaikovsky are rare. He was already in his early twenties when writing the two brief fragments opening this programme, and obviously, no *Wunderkind*. The extract for string quintet was tantalizing because spooky undertones of real dramatic potential were left undeveloped. As for the Introduction (Largo) and Allegro for string quintet and two flutes, it was as if he set out to emulate Berlioz only to make off to the ballet. The group's string players found more of an imaginative challenge here than in Mozart's *Clarinet Quintet*, though Antony Pay's tone was as melting as his phrasing was suave.

Joan Chissell

Mermaid Theatre

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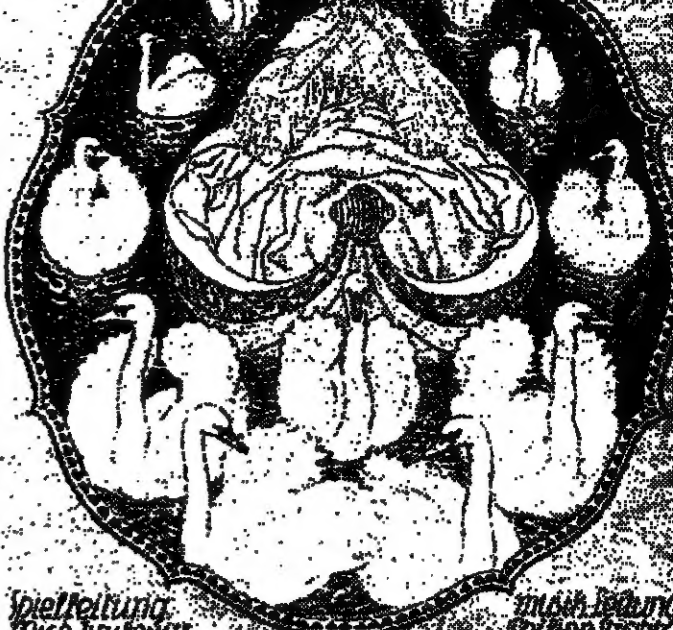
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SELL! SELL! SELL!

Nothing symbolizes the contrast between the public and private sectors quite as neatly as the events at Laker and British Airways last week. Laker, with a record of cutting costs and prices to the bone, was forced into liquidation. British Airways, which has been notoriously slow to cut its staffing levels to world standards, was allowed to borrow an extra £53m under government guarantee.

Nothing would have been gained by converting Laker Airways into a pensioner of the state. But we can ensure that more of elements now in the public sector, are taken out and exposed in future to the disciplines of the market. The Government's record so far has been disappointing. It has done little and plans less. The sales so far have been on the periphery, with the highly successful exception of the 51 per cent stake in British Aerospace. Over the next three years the Treasury is expecting assets of only £1,500m, a sign of the extent to which the early hopes of the Government have trickled into the sand.

The problems of Laker seem to have given new impetus to the Government's hopes of privatizing British Airways. These have been blown off course by the large losses which have been incurred in recent years by BA in common with other companies in the world airline

industry. Loss makers are never easy to sell; loss makers in an industry where everyone is losing money are clearly unsaleable.

However, the losses are not the whole story. Some of the contributors to those losses are the results of bad management over the years.

A vicious circle has grown up. The company's losses mean that it cannot be sold off, while the fact that it cannot be sold off has become an extra reason for postponing the moves to create efficiency which it badly needs. The Government ought to take urgent steps to put this right. Parts of the business, such as the helicopter operations, could be sold off even in today's difficult circumstances. For the rest, what is needed is a firm commitment to sell off the operation within the lifetime of this Parliament and a timetable to make sure that happens. The Government will have to accept that much of the money currently counted as loans to British Airways will have to be converted into equity if the flotation is to succeed.

A similar approach is needed in other parts of the public sector. The Government has not been good at converting its desires into action in such fields as the fringe activities of the railways, including hotels and ferries. There are large parts of the public sector which

cannot and should not be privatised. The railways are an essential public service and have to remain in public hands. Most of the gas and electricity industry fits the same description. Those industries which remain in the public sector must be encouraged to become more efficient and allowed to carry out the investment they need to become efficient. There is no sense in keeping an industry in the public sector and then depriving it of the means to do its job properly.

But the need to give those concerns which are legitimately part of the public sector proper access to funds makes it all the more urgent to open up to private capital those which can be run privately. No one should expect that selling off British Airways or the country's gas showrooms will produce miraculous gains in efficiency. Some of the companies which go into private hands will fail. But others will get the chance to grow by giving the public better service.

Nor should the success of the programme be considered solely by how much money the Government succeeds in raising from it. The proper location of the boundary between public and private industry is one of the Government's most important and hitherto least successful, areas of operation. It ought to show greater determination in its efforts to push on with privatization.

THE SOUR SMELL OF EL SALVADOR

El Salvador has now become a major issue in the United States, with sharp differences in Congress over what policy should be taken. Even within the Reagan Administration there are differences of emphasis between Mr Haig, who has made a point of talking tough about possible military action, and Mr Weinberger, who has let it be known that he is less hawkish; while the right is beginning to be critical of Mr Haig for not matching his words with action. The reason is a simple one. Things are going badly in El Salvador, with a mounting death toll from the virtual civil war and the economy badly shaken. And there are grounds for fearing that by becoming more involved, the United States may be repeating the mistakes it made in Vietnam.

The basic preoccupation of the Administration is understandable. It does not want to see a domino process in Central America, beginning with El Salvador and ending with a string of hostile leftist regimes, all allied to Cuba. It believes, therefore, that it has to do everything necessary to support, or even prop up, the present Salvadorean Government, regardless of its shortcomings. So Washington is prepared to turn a blind eye to the blatant violations of human rights, which have led to the cold-blooded killings of thousands of people on mere suspicion of sympathy for the guerrillas. And it is making

the most of the regime's virtues—the presence in it of President Duarte, powerless though he is to stem the repression, and its aspirations to carry out agrarian and other reforms.

The trouble is that the policy is not working. It is simply not possible to present a regime with such a murderous record as democratic. And next month's elections will not alter that fact, because it is not possible to hold fair and open elections in an atmosphere of repression like that in El Salvador today. More critically, the regime is even having difficulty in holding its own against the guerrillas on the military front. The guerrillas are entrenched in various parts of the country, and they recently achieved a spectacular coup when they succeeded in blowing up helicopters within a military base. The prospect, therefore, is of a prolonged and bloody stalemate, in which neither the regime nor the guerrillas is able to win a clear victory, and in which there is more and more death and misery among the population; or else of victory for the guerrillas.

It would clearly be unreasonable to expect Washington simply to cut off all aid to the Salvadorian government. That would mean virtually handing the country over to the guerrillas. But it should use the leverage that it has, by virtue of the regime's

dependence on it, to force a more constructive course. It should bring more pressure to bear on the Salvadorean army to end its atrocities. And above all, it should force the regime to give up its refusal to negotiate with the guerrillas. The guerrillas themselves have now proposed negotiations, which they previously refused, and such negotiations have been widely backed, both inside and outside El Salvador, as the only way to resolve the country's difficulties.

Such a course would be hard for the Reagan administration to accept, because of its reluctance to have dealings with Marxists. But it has to recognize the realities of Central America today, and the fact that there is a surge of opposition to the military regimes which held power for so long, with their close links to the United States. This opposition is helped by Cuba, and suits Cuba's purposes; but it has not been created either by Havana or by Moscow, and mere repression will not eliminate it. If Washington is prepared to deal with these new forces, in El Salvador, Nicaragua and elsewhere, it should be able to achieve a modus vivendi with them. If it is not, it is liable to find in the long run that its worst fears have been realized and that, like Cuba in the 1960s, they have turned to Moscow.

David Wood Reporting Parliament by half

To say that the reporting of Commons debates is not what it was might appear to be a calculated reflection on the quality of industry of the new generation of coal-face workers in the press gallery. No such slight is intended. In fact I would say that the average level of gallery ability at Westminster today is higher than in the years immediately after the 1939-45 War, when men in demob suits were remodeling their Pimms' shorthand and desperately remembering everything they had ever known about politics and politicians.

I should say, rather, that there has been a marked change in the reporting of parliamentary debates and then add, while acquitting the reporters, that the change is not necessarily helpful. What precisely has happened and why? In short, nearly every London and provincial morning paper nowadays reports only half of each Commons sitting, and those whose business or interest it is to follow public affairs must increasingly wait for Hansard (which also has early deadlines) to arm themselves with the text of speeches delivered after supper time. Refer any day to *The Guardian* or *The Daily Telegraph* in particular.

Long-serving politicians are clearly puzzled that newspaper priorities for parliamentary, as distinct from political, reporting have shifted to question time and statements, which occur before tea time, and rarely to the opening speeches in a debate. No

wonder. They remember, as do many reporters who grew grey in the gallery, that the red meat of politics used to be flung into the cage late at night, in wind-up speeches and during long sittings into the small hours next day.

That was when Commons theatre produced its high drama and low comedy. That was when tired governments got ambushed in the division lobbies, when Barbara Castle and George Wigg planned the public downfall of John Profumo, when George Brown had to be begged by friends not to resign, when 10 Downing Street announced at 2.45am that British troops would land in Jordan 75 minutes later, when Iain Macleod, the new Chancellor, suddenly died, and when Clement Attlee announced he would fly to Washington to stop the Americans using the atomic bomb during the Korean war.

At that time London newspapers kept open their parliamentary reports until the last edition was about to roll; and *The Times*, with its strict rule that the "box" should never be left empty no matter how long the House sat, always reopened the parliamentary page to give the time of "who goes home" or even to say that the Commons still sat. It seems to me, following politics one remove from the half gallery, that the reporting of a parliamentary sitting even in some heavy papers carries risks of distortion, and their readers deserve some explanation—much as the readers of many provincial evening papers, which now roll off main editions before the Commons even prays and sits, needs some explanation of the total absence of any Westminster news except political comment, usually speculative or peripheral. Television and radio news flashes, with slots measured in seconds rather than minutes, are no substitute for the printed word if politics are to be taken as a serious study or interest. The change for the worse in

parliamentary reporting, on all the evidence to hand, is to be explained partly by the rise of the television news, partly by the decline in the standing of Parliament and parliamentarians, and partly by the blessings of a new printing technology that I no more love than understand.

This is no place, or this is not the typewriter, to discuss why both evening and morning newspapers throughout Britain, facing competition from instant news on radio, have brought forward their edition deadlines at a time when their transparent interest must have been to put them back. But they have done so, obviously for sound managerial reasons.

Nor does the new technology, so far, provide a solution. It tends to turn breakfast editions of Fleet Street papers into late editions of the evening paper, as it flagrantly does on the Continent. It also tends to pass control of the news flow from the reporter on the spot to technicians, who understandably want the alternating trickles and catarrhs of news to reach their desks in an orderly way. ("Dear George, please don't resign after midnight—the new technology can't cope with it.")

One answer would be attractive to some, though not many politicians: a radio channel wholly devoted to reporting parliamentary debates. Yet that is clearly not the answer. No students of politics can spend all their working hours listening to the longwindedness of a debate, waiting for their special point of interest, and no one listening to the spoken word, however experienced, can manage without a printed text, perhaps summarized and sensibly explained. In the end, politics and politicians need the press as much as ever, and we must hope that the press will continue to feel they need Parliament. That is not the way most of the press now seem to follow.

British stance on EEC Budget

From Mr Robert Jackson, MEP for Upper Thames (Conservative). Sir, The tone of Wednesday's Commons exchange about the European Budget (Parliamentary report, February 4) suggests that there may be a serious misunderstanding of the issues at stake. The main point does not relate to the relatively trivial amounts of money over which the Council contends Parliament was acting *ultra vires* in adding to the 1982 Budget. This will cost Britain some £2.5m gross a month—but in net terms Britain should make a profit from this spending, including £5m for housing in Belfast.

Rather, the central issue concerns Parliament's attempts to challenge the way in which Community expenditure is "classified", with the effect of limiting its budgetary powers over so-called "obligatory" expenditure on the common agricultural policy. It is notorious that the CAP is not subject to proper budgetary control, leading to a 23 per cent annual growth in expenditure between 1976 and 1979. The Council has so far consistently been unable to resolve this problem within itself, either by obliging agricultural ministers to take account of the financial costs of their decisions, or by agreeing upon a more costly policy. And, of course, this weakness of financial discipline over the CAP lies near the root of the overall imbalance in Britain's net contribution to the European Budget.

The CAP seems to elude the control of the governments in the Council. *A fortiori* it is not subject to the control of the national parliaments.

In fact, the only way to impose financial discipline over the CAP is to make it fully subject to a normal process of Budget-making, so that the claims of agriculture can be properly weighed against other priorities, and so that an adequate measure of public accountability for public money spent by the European Community can be exerted through the European Parliament. This is what the Parliament is contending for, and it is to be hoped that, in the interests of Britain and the Community as a whole, the British Government will support its efforts.

Westminster should not see every extension of the European Parliament's powers as a loss for itself; neither Parliament will lose from the developments now at issue. The principle of parliamentary accountability will be the gainer.

Yours sincerely, ROBERT JACKSON, 4 Churton Place, SW1.

Canada's Constitution

From Sir Bernard Braine, MP for Essex, South East (Conservative). Sir, The British Parliament, as Lord Denning confirmed in his judgment last week, retains the power to repeal or amend the Canadian Constitution contained in the British North America Act, 1867 to 1930.

I know of no member of Parliament who is not prepared to give up this power, but we are asked to do more than this, if we enact the Canada Bill. We are expected to approve at Westminster, against strenuous opposition within Canada, a new Canadian Constitution containing a detailed Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

While we retain jurisdiction, therefore, we cannot be expected to enact so comprehensive a measure blindly and uncritically. We have not only the right but

Abiding commitment to British Rail

From Mr T. R. Thomas. Sir, My grandfather, J. H. (Jimmy) Thomas, was a tough man. He was the signatory, on behalf of the railway unions, to the agreement dated November 6, 1918, which achieved the eight-hour day for railwaymen. It is this agreement, signed over 60 years ago, that is the root cause of the current dispute. My grandfather was also, not in order of importance, a great railwayman, a great union man and a great patriot. He believed in the equality of his own industry. In my heart I know that he would never have allowed this dispute to reach the levels of inanity that prevail.

Over the weeks of the rail dispute, I have often wondered what Grandpa's position would have been. I believe that he would not have called a strike that savaged the public, damaged the economy and (above all) jeopardized the future importance and viability of his own industry. In my heart I know that he would never have allowed this dispute to reach the levels of inanity that prevail.

In particular, he would never, as a good argumentative Welshman, have allowed what he believed to be a good case to go by default. He would have talked, talked, and talked again.

Think on it Mr Buckton. Could you look me in the eye and say that Jimmy Thomas would have given you his blessing? And, before you say "irrelevant", look up the records and see what he achieved for your members.

Yours faithfully, TIM THOMAS, Friskney's Wood, Billingshurst, Sussex. February 5.

From Mr Harley Sherlock. Sir, In your editorial today (February 4) you summarise the cause of the travelling public's present misery by referring to Aslef as "a doomed cattle union". But you show very little sympathy to the members of this union who, in the name of productivity, have given up nearly a third of their jobs in the last 15 years. Surely they are by now entitled to some assurance from the Government that the necessary capital investment will be available to ensure that British Rail becomes more productive through the use of better equipment and an increase in custom; not just through the shedding of labour.

The Government, as paymaster, also has its rights and cannot be expected to sign a blank cheque without some positive sign that words about increased productivity are going to be translated into deeds. It is important therefore that the present calamity should be made the occasion for everyone to look beyond their own entrenched positions and to decide whether they

want a railway system or whether, for widely different reasons, they want to see the system strangled to death.

There are a lot of us living on this small island and, unless we are prepared to turn our remaining agricultural land into an endless suburb, most of us will continue to live in densely populated cities which are dependent on good public transport. Without an extensive railway system these cities will suffer socially, economically and environmentally.

It is therefore in the national interest that the Government stops sitting on the sidelines and confers that the country is committed to keeping its railways rather than allowing them to become steadily less efficient through lack of capital investment. Without such an assurance neither management nor work force can be expected to plan positively for the future.

Yours faithfully, HARLEY SHERLOCK, Chairman, Transport 2000, 258 Pentonville Road, N1.

From the Secretary General of the Council of Civil Service Unions. Sir, The attack on Aslef in your leader of February 4 would be more credible if *The Times* had a consistent record of championing arbitration (whether binding or otherwise) and independent inquiries in general.

Last year I repeatedly told the Government, the press, and anyone who would listen that the Civil Service unions were willing to seek resolution of our dispute through conciliation, or through binding or non-binding arbitration. *The Times* did not urge the Government to take that statesmanlike course or condemn the "self-righteousness" of the employer. It could not, conversely, have made more plain its determination to produce binding or non-binding arbitration. *The Times* did not urge the Government to take that statesmanlike course or condemn the "self-righteousness" of the employer. It could not, conversely, have made more plain its determination to produce binding or non-binding arbitration.

I can only conclude that *The Times* believes in arbitration when it thinks such a course would favour the employer. That is a perversion of the purpose of arbitration.

Yours sincerely, W. J. KENDALL, Secretary General, Council of Civil Service Unions, 19 Rochester Row, SW1. February 5.

From Mr David Mitchell. Sir, Mr Jack Dash led the assault which emasculated the London docks beyond the point of recovery. Is history about to repeat itself in the form of Mr Ray Buckton and the British railway system?

Yours faithfully, DAVID MITCHELL, Hollingworth House, Tydd St Giles, Woburn, Cambridgeshire. February 5.

He has, however, reaffirmed the solemn and binding nature of the obligations owed by the Crown in Canada to the Indians, Metis and Inuit nations. He gave up at Westminster the broadest hint when he concluded that "No Parliament should do anything to lessen the worth of these guarantees."

A petition by Indian chiefs which I presented to Parliament on January 22 contains incontrovertible evidence of past extinguishment of native rights and there is disturbing evidence that Canadian governments intend to terminate these rights when they have the power to do so.

Our moral duty at Westminster is clear: we must play our part in ensuring that the guarantees affirmed by Lord Denning can never in the future be broken.

Yours truly, BERNARD BRAINE, House of Commons. February 2.

commodities, products and services. Once these are established and contacts made, a vigorous and continuous follow-up exercise is activated, with check-listed results monitored—result, maximisation of two-way trade.

My firm impression has been that BOTB activity is a one-way traffic and as such, the multi-dimensional totality of trade involvement (as for instance practised by Japan and West Germany) is reduced to one single dimension: exports.

There have been literally hundreds of outward missions to the ASEAN area but market share has fallen steadily over the past ten years. In other words the cost effectiveness is problematical. If there is acceptance of South East Asian growth prospects as the most viable trading area in the next ten years, British posts overseas should be specifically charged with the responsibility of co-ordinating all trade-related activities. While respecting the experience and dedication of those exercising control, there is a requirement for natural motivators. They should have sufficient drive and enthusiasm, combined with delegated authority, to inspire involvement in total trade expansion in all its multi-dimensional implications and commitments.

There should also be continuity in order to maintain momentum. They could be subordinate to a director general of trade in the area, with complete regional autonomy in South East Asia. The organisational structure of the former South East Asian Command (SEAC) very ably led by the then (late) Lord Louis Mountbatten is a good example of such a potentially successful headquarters which could be based in Hongkong.

Yours faithfully, FRANK MCKELLAR, Senior Representative UK, Hong Kong Trade Development Council, 14-16 Cockspar Street, SW1. February 1.

Conserving the countryside

From the Chairman of the Countryside Commission. Sir, Your perceptive second leader, "Cambria's untrodden way", of February 2, goes a long way to answer points made in the letter from Alan Mattingly, of the Ramblers' Association, which you published on the previous day. But your readers could still be under three misconceptions about the plans of the Countryside Commission.

First, Mr Mattingly says we are closing our regional offices. In fact we are closing two, leaving seven offices in England and one in Wales, with some corresponding boundary adjustments. This is in response to staff reductions imposed on us; in fact, a larger proportion of our rather smaller staff will be in regional offices in future than now.

Secondly, it is quite untrue to state that the commission "is becoming heavily involved in wildlife conservation": our policy continues as previously, of furthering the conservation and enhancement of the countryside's natural beauty and amenity of which the wildlife is an integral part.

Thirdly, the reference to "a switch in priority from recreation to conservation". That is correct, for we do plan to put rather more of our resources into countryside conservation in the future. We see protection of the countryside as the prerequisite for its enjoyment; and we believe our sense of priorities accords with that of the public at large. But Mr Mattingly and the rambling fraternity need have no fear that their interests will be forgotten. Most of our grant aid is currently for recreation and access schemes—footpath improvement, creation of country parks and picnic sites, access to moorland, heath and woodland for example—and they will continue to be important features of our programme after we become independent of the Civil Service this coming April.

Yours faithfully, DEREK BARBER, Chairman, Countryside Commission, John Dower House, Crescent Place, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. February 4.

University challenge

From the Director of the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Sir, Professor Robin Marri's brilliant defence of Britain's universities (feature, February 5) is correct in its facts and impressive in its arguments. I wonder whether you would be prepared to give Sir Keith Joseph a chance to make his case in your columns, if indeed he has anything to say.

More particularly, I for one should be interested to know why it is that successive governments of Britain have, to use Robin Marri's words, turned against the things which the country does particularly well.

Yours sincerely, RALF DAHRENDORF, Director, The London School of Economics and Political Science, (University of London), Houghton Street, WC2. February 5.

The buyer's premium

From the President of the British Antique Dealers' Association.

Sir, In Mr Leisenring's letter of February 3, regarding the buyer's premium, his knowledge of the American reaction would appear to be somewhat misguided. The support that my association and the Society of London Art Dealers received from all the art and antique associations and museums of America was very considerable, both in sentiment and finance.

Does Mr Leisenring earn a living from buying at either Sotheby Parke Bernet or Christie's New York? For if he does not, I would point out that over 75 per cent of the buyers at those auction houses are people who do.

No! I am in total agreement with your paper's leader (January 16). What other profession, and both parties for the same transaction?

Yours faithfully, CHARLES B. LEE, The British Antique Dealers' Association Ltd, 20 Rutland Gate, SW7. February 3.

The Tawney tradition

From Professor L. S. Pressnell.

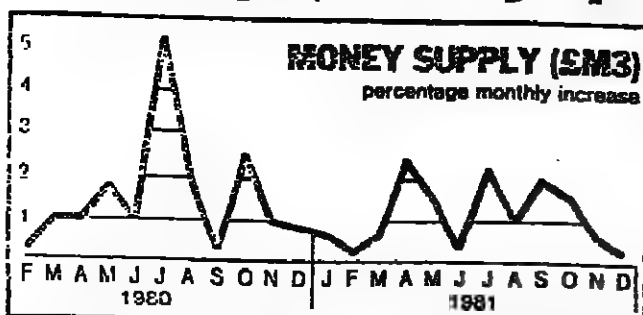
Sir, "Valiant efforts are made by left-wing publicists to claim him. It will not do." (*The Times*, November 28, 1961). Your leading article on Tawney's eightieth birthday acknowledged that "No man alive has out more people into his spiritual and intellectual debt."

How wrong for any group intent on political power to debate that achievement and themselves by now appropriating it for narrower ends. How inconsiderate also towards existing, well-established, and emphatically non-political institutions more properly carrying his name: the Tawney Society of history students at his main academic home, the London School of Economics, the distinguished annual Tawney lectureship of the Economic History Society.

Let the SDP repent of their error. Now. Yours sincerely, L. S. PRESSNELL, Eliot College, University of Kent at Canterbury, Canterbury. February 4.

BUSINESS NEWS

M3 likely to rise by 1pc



The Bank of England publishes tomorrow its preliminary estimate of the growth in sterling M3, the broad measure of banking money, for the banking month to mid-January. Many City estimates look for growth of 1-1.5 per cent. Figures for the London clearing banks will give some idea of the buoyancy of bank lending to the private sector, but the figures are likely to understate the true picture because of the large scale purchases of commercial bills by the Bank of England in its open market operations.

Sangers shake-up expected

Sparks look certain to fly at the special board meeting at Sangers, the loss making pharmaceutical group, called for tomorrow. On the agenda is expected to be the invitation for Mr Tom Whyte, who holds 24 per cent of the shares, to join the board and a call for the resignation of several of Sangers' directors and Hill Samuel, its financial advisers.

Mr Whyte, former head of the crashed Triumph Investment Trust, last night expressed dissatisfaction with Hill Samuel's financial advice and complained that the last chairman's report had made no mention of the group's mounting financial losses. Mr Whyte bought his stake in Sangers in July when he believed a recovery was on the way in the United States pharmaceutical industry. Mounting costs and competition have resulted in losses so far of £1m in the six months to August 31.

Since then he has recommended the appointment of Mr Philip Saul, a lawyer, and Mr Brian Plinn, an accountant, whose brief is believed to include the sale of the main loss makers and realization of assets.

ACC warns to Ronson

Speculation was growing yesterday that a majority of Directors on the board of ACC was now prepared to accept Mr Gerald Ronson's bid of £46m against the earlier offer from Mr Robert Holmes a Court of £36m. Mr Holmes a Court has also been asked by shareholders of TVV Enterprises, his television offshoot, why he has not taken up Mr Ronson's higher offer.

SE Labs (EMI), the telecommunications equipment manufacturing subsidiary of Thorn EMI, has changed its name to Datatech.

RCA, Philips and Signetics of America have signed an agreement to design and develop advanced high speed micro chips.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Realignment at Imps

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 578.8 up 3.3
FT Glits 65.15 up 0.20
FT all share 329.93 up 1.21
Bargains 23,166

Imperial Group should show an improved second-half performance in the full-year figures for the year to October due on Thursday. Analysts are looking for profits of £100m against £127m in 1980.

Unexpectedly poor first-half results when profits had slumped from £70.7m to £29.7m, led to reorganization plans which could include the £130m sale of its food division. There are also rumours that the poultry division will be shed.

As the British tobacco market had continued to shrink, Imperial's margins have been helped by price increases since September and again in January, but there is still the possibility of further redundancies in the tobacco division.

Evidence of better cigarette earnings in the United Kingdom in its second half came last week from Gallaher whose trading profits were up from £59.7m to £64.7m.

There should also be an improved performance in the second half from Howard Johnson, the United States subsidiary, where operations, which include hotels, restaurants and food manufacture, are heavily dependent on summer traffic.

Analysts expect the dividend to be maintained at 18.3p for the year with an improvement in profits during 1982. Earnings before tax are expected to rise with estimates ranging from £115m to £130m.

How far-reaching the reorganization plans of Mr Geoffrey Kent, the new chairman, are will be critical. His new strategy has not

been fully spelled out and there are hopes that more details may be given with this week's figures.

Steps taken so far have included the removal of several layers of bureaucracy both at the head office in the division, but turning round a diversified group of Imperial's size will inevitably take time.

Lorhio's profits were down £8m at the half-way stage, but full-year figures due this week are expected to show a fall from £118.1m to about £105m, with a corresponding fall in dividend.

The group has seldom been out of the news, with last year's acquisition of The Observer and a 30 per cent stake in House of Fraser followed by rumours that Mr Roland "Tory" Rowland would emerge as a third contender in the battle to control Associated Communications Corporation.

But although the House of Fraser will make a useful contribution to profits, the group's other United Kingdom interests are in a less healthy position. The Observer is continuing to lose money, and plans for a new London evening paper have apparently been shelved. There will be continuing losses at Hatfield, the Sheffield steel group.

Lorhio is faring better overseas with production from its gold mines in Zimbabwe increasing and offsetting the lower metal prices. The group's platinum mining and agricultural interests are also performing well.

Much of the interest in the group centres on whether Lorhio will make a further attempt to acquire House of Fraser, the Harrods store group.

When Mr John Biffen, Trade Secretary, blocked the takeover last year, Lorhio promised not to add to its 30 per cent stake. But a letter from a Department of Trade official effectively left the door open by saying that Lorhio's rights as a shareholder were not affected.

DIARY

TODAY: Hire purchase and instalment credit statistics (December).

TUESDAY: London clearing banks' monthly statement. Vehicle production (January provisional).

THURSDAY: Steel production (January).

FRIDAY: Building societies monthly figures.

OTHER EXCHANGES

Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,365.70 down 2.88

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,801.85 down 32.82

New York: Dow Jones Industrial average 851.03, up 4.00. (Friday's close)

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY: Interim: Samuel Heath and Sons, Home Farm Products, Meat Trade Suppliers. Final: Broadstone Investment Trust, Lancashire and London Investment Trust, Manchester Ship Canal, U.C. Investments.

TOMORROW: Interim: Amstrad Consumer Electronics, Crouch Group, Guildhall Property, Wm Jackson, Donald Macpherson.

Finals: Aronson Bros Crescent, Nicholson, Ladies Pride Outerwear, New Tokyo Investment Trust.

WEDNESDAY: Interim: Ashley Industrial Trust, Benn Bros, Epicure Holdings, Grippardos, Heelamat, Leadertrust, General Finance, BOC Investment Trust, Consolidated Drapery, Securicor Security Service, Yeoman Investment Trust.

THURSDAY: Interim: Christie-Tyler, Christy Brothers, R. M. Douglas, Hamilton Oil of Great Britain, Imperial Group, Mining Supplies, Mountfield Group.

Finals: Lorhio, River Plate and Central Investment Trust.

FRIDAY: Final: Alexander Holdings, Brook Tool Engineering, PRCOM Inc, Wagon Finance Corporation.

ECONOMIC VIEW

TODAY: United States budget announced. The size of the projected deficit will be watched closely by the money markets as a guide to the wholesale price index published. Recent figures have looked encouraging, raising hopes that inflation may fall a little faster than the Government is forecasting. Retail sales figures due. High street trading has shown no clear pattern in recent months.

TUESDAY: key indicator during the week is the money supply figures. The City appears to be looking for a rise in January of 1 per cent or under in the growth of sterling M3 which has grown at an annual rate of 15.4 per cent in the last 10 months compared with a target of between 8 and 10 per cent. Central government borrowing figures for January.

FRIDAY: Retail price index published. It will show whether inflation in Britain is still going up or whether the 12 per cent level seen in November and December was the peak.

Strike may lead BL to halt new trucks investment

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent



Mr Andrews: preparing to report on group finances.

The board of BL could decide this week to withdraw investment approval for the company's new range of light trucks, a move that would lead to more job losses and closures in the strike-hit commercial vehicle operation.

After two weeks of strike action, it is clear that the future of BL truck-making hangs in the balance and directors will argue that without some further streamlining, the entire BL recovery plan could be knocked off course.

A decision on the 7-12 tonne light truck range is due from the BL board on Wednesday when it meets for the first time since the strike began. The trucks are due on the market late next year and will complete the Leyland Group's model replacement programme.

About 12,000 Leyland workers at three plants — Bathgate in West Lothian and Leyland and Chorley in Lancashire — are on strike in protest at the company's decision announced in November by Mr David Andrews, the BL executive vice-chairman, to sack 4,100 of the 22,000 truck and bus workers and restructure the business in a bid to staunch

mounting losses. Before the stoppage, Leyland was losing about £2m a week, and a report on the group's finances is expected to be delivered by Mr Andrews to the board on Wednesday.

Talks last week between management and union officials which followed the presentation by shop stewards of an alternative strategy for Leyland ended in deadlock and will not be resumed until next Monday.

Meanwhile, failing the success of behind-the-scenes discussions at Bathgate, it is expected that some board members at Wednesday's meeting will advocate the closure of the Scottish factory and push for manufacturing to be centred at Leyland.

This would also entail a substantial reappraisal of BL's capital spending plans. During the next four years, the company has estimated total capital investment at £1,439m, of which £300m is earmarked for the Leyland group. Of the latter, about £108m is to be spent at Ashok Leyland, the Indian truck operation, which is 50.6 per cent owned by BL.

The troubles of the truck and bus subsidiary have been aggravated by a warning

Also at stake is a joint venture between Leyland and a leading engine maker, believed to be Cummins, for the production of a new truck engine. The deal was expected to be announced within the next few months with the Bathgate plant making some of the components.

Leyland's plight, which follows last year's slump in the commercial vehicle market, has been underlined by industry figures just released which show that while total United Kingdom truck and bus sales rose in January by more than a quarter compared with a year earlier, BL's share fell from 20 per cent to under 16 per cent. Ford increased its share to a record 44 per cent.

Further pressure on the strikers has come from senior management and shop stewards at BL's Jaguar factory in Coventry which is dependent upon supplies of six-cylinder engine blocks from the Farrington foundry at Leyland. In a plea to the Leyland strike committee, Mr George Fry, the Jaguar convenor, said that if new supplies of blocks were not found by Wednesday, jobs at both plants would be at risk.

Loan rates top Basle agenda

From Peter Norman, Brussels, Feb 7

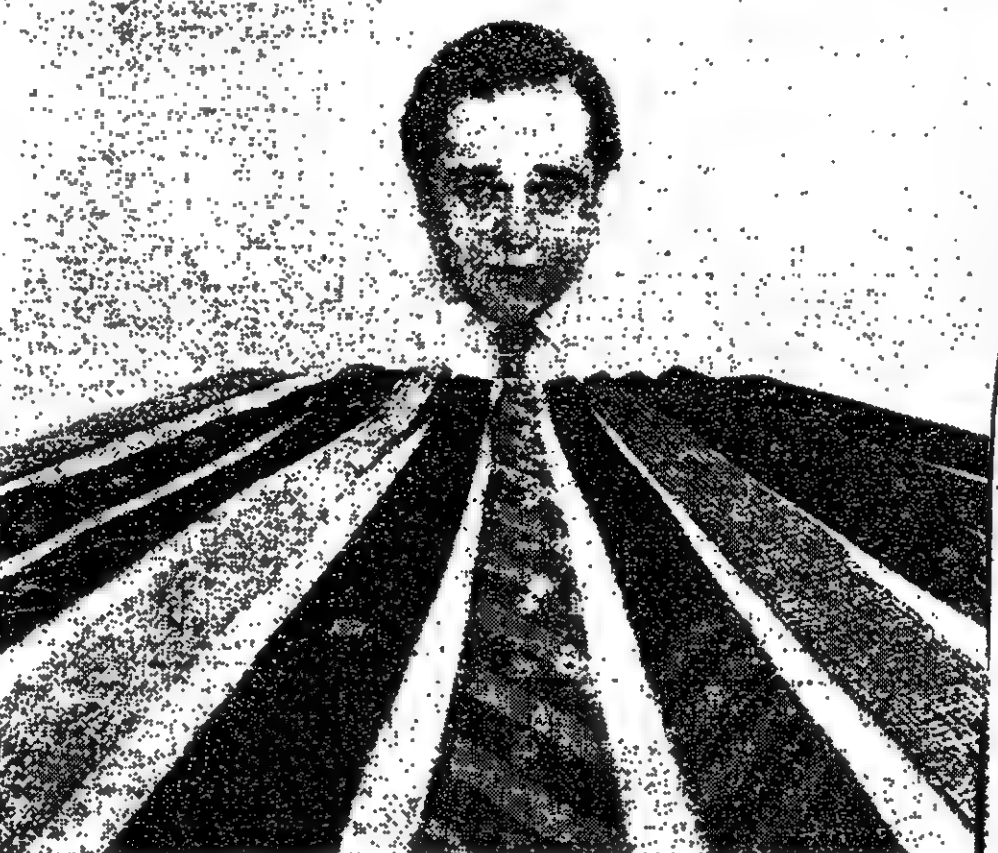
The volatile nature of United States interest rates is likely to dominate once again the regular monthly meeting of western central bankers in Basle, Switzerland, which takes place today and tomorrow in the Bank for International Settlements.

While short-term technical interest rate forecasts are difficult, a judgement of United States policy is now practically impossible in the light of differences between the Treasury and the White House on the one hand, which would like to see interest rates fall, and the United States banking system, the Federal Reserve, that lower interest rates will follow only from a fall in the federal budget deficit.

The monetary shock waves are causing some central bankers — most notably Mr Fritz Leutwiler, who is both the governor of the Swiss National Bank and the president of the BIS, — to call for a better management of exchange rates. But again, the United States with its rejection of an intervention policy, is the principal stumbling block.

Also likely to be discussed, albeit informally, is the Polish debt. The Poles have promised to settle all outstanding interest on their 1981 commercial bank debt by February 15 to enable the stalled rescheduling agreement for last year to go ahead.

The money has been flowing sparingly to the various creditor banks but the central bankers would be unlikely to ignore the possibility of Poland failing to meet the deadline.



Peter Klingner: equipped for competition

All tied up by sheer design

By David Young

Peter Klingner would love to get your company by the throat. His firm designs, weaves and makes up ties for most of the main companies and trade organizations in the country. He has recently completed a reequipment programme which means that he has capacity at his Hemel Hempstead factory to produce 40,000 intricately woven ties each week.

In the past 10 years all the plant and machinery at the factory have been replaced so

that the sheer intricacy of the designs that can be introduced should protect the company from competition from cheap imports which have invested in modern equipment could compete.

Mr Klingner, who employs 30 people at the factory which opened in Hemel Hempstead in 1965 after the business moved from Manchester and Blackburn where his father founded it in 1945, said: "We can offer a service which the Third World textile producer can't compete with. We process the yarn, weave it

and design it all under all under one roof and the designs can be so intricate that only those companies which have invested in modern equipment could compete."

Most of the ties are produced in synthetic fibres. A recent design for the Post Office incorporates more than 100 miniature and highly detailed Penny Black stamps. But high quality silk is also being used for more and more customers.

Retailers call for shop hours study

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

The Retail Consortium, which represents 90 per cent of the retail trade, yesterday entered the growing controversy over extended shop opening hours and called for a government review before any new legislation goes through.

A shops Bill, due for second reading in the Lords tomorrow, could remove all restrictions on trading hours, leaving shops to open late in the evenings and on Sundays.

The consortium's own membership is split on the issue. Some multiple chains are believed to be in favour of Sunday opening with later opening on more weekday evenings. But others are concerned, particularly at the increased cost of opening outside normal hours, especially on Sundays. Trade union opinion is also opposed to change.

This could take the form of a Royal Commission or a

departmental inquiry and a consultation document.

Mr Bob Lloyd-Jones, the consortium's director general, said: "A total removal of restrictions is unlikely to be acceptable. It is our view that change will have to take place, but that the change should be sensible and take full account of the need to protect both shop owners and shop staff and the community they serve."

The consortium's own membership is split on the issue. Some multiple chains are believed to be in favour of Sunday opening with later opening on more weekday evenings. But others are concerned, particularly at the increased cost of opening outside normal hours, especially on Sundays. Trade union opinion is also opposed to change.

'Use unspent £100m' call

By Our Industrial Staff

Nearly £100m, budgeted for construction projects but unused by Government and local authorities, should be rechanneled into the construction industry, according to Britain's civil engineers.

On top of this they want Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor, to provide an extra £500 million in his Budget for housing, roads and sewers.

The Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors said today Government help was needed to boost the ailing industry and provide more jobs.

Mr Derek Gaultier, federation director-general, said £60m would be underspent on

motorways and trunk roads this year, and at least £30m of local authority works.

The Transport Ministry was partly to blame, he said, for not ensuring that schemes would be ready to take up the slack.

He added: "We don't think we need to convince Michael Heseltine (Environment Secretary) of the need for more works, but this is the familiar problem of the Treasury's blocking things."

The civil engineers do not agree that money is being underspent because firms desperate for work are undercutting each other.

'Business as usual' spirit lessens rail strike effect

Coach hirers reap unseasonal benefits

By Robert Morris

Industry is bracing itself for a fifth week of train-drivers' strikes with near equanimity — dinged only by the worry lest the drivers' escalation of their action should be matched by British Rail and lead to a total shutdown.

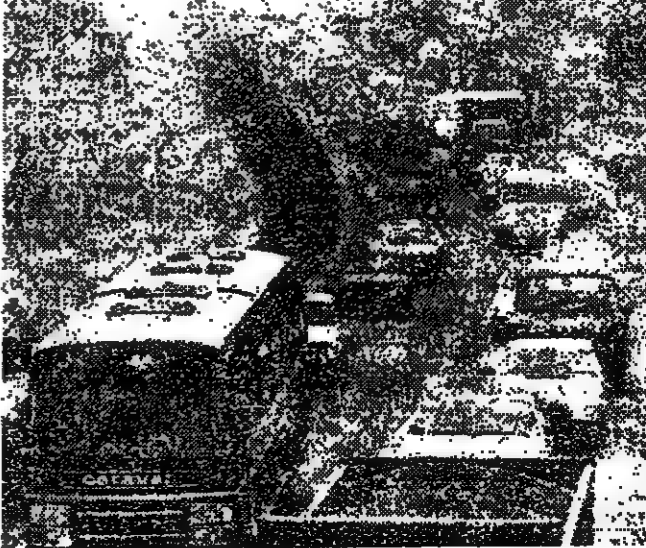
With 85 per cent of Britain's goods carried by road, two-day rail strikes are bound to have only a limited effect, even if the decision to strike on Tuesday and Thursday this week instead of Wednesday and Thursday does, as expected, prove more disruptive.

For the vast majority, the strikes have been a nuisance, and the main effect has been to give a much-needed boost to coach companies, normally languishing from the tourist low-season, but suddenly frantically busy ferrying people to and from work.

The Confederation of British Industry's response was typically Churchillian. "The resilience of industry and its employees has not yet been broken", it declared, and went on to pay tribute to people's resourcefulness and ingenuity in finding ways of getting to work.

The increase in numbers of people driving to work has led to traffic jams in the cities, and many are sharing cars, and the most significant development, in the South-East in particular, has been the willingness of companies to hire coaches to bring their staff in to work.

ICI now hires 10 coaches a day to bring its employees into central London, and reports attendances well over 90 per cent, while BP, which already runs coaches to some outlying areas, has put on an



Commuters hit, but coach hirers are booming

extra 24 a day, and claims that attendances are 100 per cent in most of its offices.

A typical London coach hire firm, like Adas Coaches of Acton, has found its business doubled, and has had to hire another 17 coaches on top of its regular fleet of 14.

"It couldn't have come at a better time for us", Mr Bill Weller, Adas Coaches' traffic manager said. "Our normal tourist work is down, but now we've got about another £1,500 a day coming in which we wouldn't otherwise have."

Regular coach services under the National Bus Company umbrella have enjoyed increased custom, but have only been able to put on occasional extra vehicles. Drivers cannot be recruited overnight.

The company's biggest

Sun Oil may merge North Sea interests

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

Sun Oil, the tenth largest American oil company, has been considering merging its North Sea interests with an independent British oil company to create a "third force" in the British oil industry.

There has been speculation recently about Sun's future North Sea involvement — and in particular about the fate of its principal asset, the Balmoral field in block 16/21, 150 miles north east of Aberdeen.

Development plans for this discovery, which could eventually prove to contain more than 100 million barrels of oil, are reliably expected to be submitted to the Department of Energy later this year.

Speculation that Sun might give up the ownership of the field or selling part or all of its 63 per cent interest in the block has been prompted by two recent events. One was the resignation of Mr David Williams, the British geologist in charge of Sun's North Sea exploration. The other was a larger-than-expected £28m rights issue by Clyde Petroleum, one of the partners in the field.

Sun has denied that it was giving up the ownership of the field, and has insisted that no part of its stake was up for sale. However, it is reliably understood from industry sources that the company with the fewest known shares in the field, the British Energy Department officials, has been talking with more than one British independent company over several months.

One idea under consideration is a merger in which Sun's interest would be combined with those of a second-rank British exploration company such as Lasmo, creating a new company with assets of several million pounds. Under this arrangement, Sun would keep a minority interest in

the new company. Clyde Petroleum is also believed to have talked to Sun about the possibility of Clyde increasing its 15 per cent stake.

The other possibility being aired is that the state-owned British National Oil Corporation, which is operating for a consortium drilling what is believed to be an extension of the Balmoral field in a neighbouring block, might take over development of the field.

Sun was said to be shocked last year when the licence covering the possible extension was given to the BNOC-led consortium in preference to its own group.

If Sun decides to press ahead as operator at Balmoral, it has to decide whether to use a fixed platform or a floating production system and how to finance the operation, likely to cost several hundred million pounds.

Iran has reduced the official price of its crude oil by \$1 a barrel in an attempt to boost exports, the Middle East Economic Survey reported yesterday.

The authoritative weekly oil newsletter said the National Iranian Oil Company released the cut in official prices to its customers on Friday.

The new official prices, on the basis of 30 days' credit are \$33.20 a barrel for Iranian light and \$31.20 for heavy.

The breach on the worldwide official price structure, both inside and outside Opec, was fraught with "weighty consequences" for the international oil scene, already witnessing a continued slide of spot prices. "Though when it will end is far from clear."

It added that because of conditions in the spot market, Iran's price cut was not large enough to attract as many new buyers as it hoped.

Reagan budget faces difficult passage

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, Feb 7

Early Congressional reaction to President Reagan's budget proposal from both Republicans and Democrats was dismay at the size of the projected 1983 deficit coupled with fears that it could well go higher.

Democrats were predictably scathing about a budget which raised defense spending while cutting social programmes, but the key comment may well have come yesterday from a Republican Senator, Robert Dole, the chairman of the Senate finance committee. "The Republicans I have talked with are frightened about the size of the deficit," he said.

He believed what the President had proposed was "a credible budget" but it needed "a lot of work". That means that even in the Senate, where there is a Republican majority, the President has a fight on his hands.

The Republican whip, Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska, described himself as "sort of in a state of shock" on learning that the deficit would be as high as

\$91,500m. But the real worry is that it is likely to be far higher, because that figure relies on Congress approving all of the cuts the President had asked for and that is very unlikely indeed. The cuts in the social programme are bound to run into heavy opposition in the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives.

Representative James Jones, a Democrat from Oklahoma and chairman of the budget committee, said the deficit was too large and added: "Unless we get the deficits under control we will have high interest rates and that will frustrate recovery."

Congress is likely to attack strongly the 18 per cent rise in defence spending which is equal to more than a third of the budget deficit.

Senator William Armstrong, a conservative Republican from Colorado, put his finger on the general feeling as he said: "When hawks like me are talking about cutting military spending you know something is in the wind."

custom, although business at John Lewis's Oxford Street branch is up on last year.

One of the worst-affected industrial firms has been British Rail's own subsidiary Freightliner, which expects to be doing only 35 per cent of its normal business this week.

Freightliner, which takes container traffic by road and rail mostly between Britain and Europe, lost over £2m in revenue in the first four weeks of the dispute.

Mr Malcolm Filsell, deputy managing director, reckons the Tuesday and Thursday disruption will lose the firm a further £1m a week. It is serious, he says, but remains confident that major customers will not be permanently put off.

The Coal Board, which transports 70 per cent of its coal by rail, says it has lost at least £3m by being unable to move 2.1 million tonnes — the equivalent of a week's rail movement. It costs more than £1 a tonne to stockpile coal.

British Steel reported little disruption except at Lackenby, Teesside, where production has been cut 40 per cent because of a combination of the rail strikes, a strike at the export terminal and lack of stockyard space.

Firms such as ICI and Ford, which transport a quarter or more of their goods by rail, said they were using other methods and were not inconvenienced.

Road haulage firms, which might be expected to benefit from rail disruption, complained that the sporadic nature of the train-drivers' action had created almost as many administrative problems as it had produced new custom.

RENT REVIEWS

Calculated approach to long leases

Critics may well argue that the Council's £17m sale of its interest in the Brent Cross shopping centre was politically inspired, but it does at least free the council from the intense wrangling over rent reviews now taking place there.

The whole question of rent reviews is a grey area in legal terms with relatively little case law and the inescapable fact that virtually every commercial lease ever signed has some quirk or loophole which can be exploited in negotiations.

Arbitration, such as has been required at Brent Cross, has become almost the norm, particularly in cases where the lease has reviews only at seven, 14 or even 21-yearly intervals instead of the standard five.

What has to be argued in such cases is the price the tenant should be paying for the benefit of such a long review pattern or, in other words, how much higher should the rent be than for an identical building on which there are reviews every five years.

This may sound simply like coming up with a suitable mathematical formula but as Mr. Anthony Lorenz, senior partner of London estate agents Baker Lorenz, points out, there are a number of key variables to be considered.

In the first place the leading for a long-dated review has to be based on growth in the particular locality. The tenant of a West



Brent Cross: intense wrangling over rent reviews

End office building, where rental growth has averaged 10 per cent per annum in a very different position than, say, the tenant of a similar building in Wandsworth High Street, where there has been no appreciable rental growth over the past seven years.

A second and perhaps less obvious point to consider is the size of the building. The tenant who occupies a 1,000 sq ft suite of offices held on a lease with 21-yearly reviews, for instance, may well be prepared to pay £13,000 per annum instead of a market value of £10,000 per annum for the benefit offered by his review pattern.

Indexation of rents has become common in Europe and there have been a few

attempts to introduce it in the United Kingdom. But the British property market is more institutionally oriented and stable than almost anywhere else in the world and indexation would create artificial rent levels when supply and demand is the only factor which really governs rent levels.

In the absence of any legislation or reliable precedents governing reviews, Mr. Lorenz has devised his own method of calculating what the loading should be on a long review pattern lease, and applies this on the 500 or so cases he deals with each year.

Take, for example, a 21-year review. Firstly, he calculates the compound

annual growth per annum of the type of property in rental terms, and also estimates its market rental value, assuming a conventional five-year pattern.

Based on this compounded growth rate, he then estimates the market rental value of the property in five years' time and capitalizes the premium value which the tenant will enjoy on an unexpired 16-year term to the 21st year.

Then he discounts the capital value back to today's capital figure and rentalizes this discounted capital value. He repeats the process for the 10th, 15th and 20th years to arrive at a rental figure which reflects the loading.

Garth David

BRITISH TELECOM

Why Buzby is wooing the businessman

The reduction of transatlantic telephone charges last week by British Telecom is expected to benefit the businessman immediately and bring his costs more into line with the residential user.

Telephone calls to North America were cut by 35 per cent from February 1 and in May there is to be a reduction in some inland trunk rates. Telephone calls at standard rate beyond 56 kilometres will cost up to 20 per cent less and those made in Britain's 100 busiest trunk routes will be 35 per cent cheaper.

The business user has long subsidized the residential user. British Telecom has about 15 million residential subscribers, but its 4 million business users generate

about 60 per cent of the corporation's revenue.

Apart from the desire by British Telecom to bring business rates into line with the domestic consumer, the corporation is ensuring that its rates are commercial, since private telecommunications network operators in the UK could soon open. How soon in the future that will be no one seems quite sure but British Telecom is losing no time in giving its service a commercial edge before any potential competition even gets off the ground.

A consortium of Cable & Wireless, BP and Barclays Merchant Bank was formed last year and applied to the Department of Industry for a licence to operate a private telecommunications network.

The network, to be called Mercury, would consist of about 1300 kilometres of fibre optic cable laid at a cost of £50m as the first phase of a telecommunications system. The conditions of operation of the licence are still the subject of negotiation and have been for several months.

British Telecom has lost no time in seeing the need to improve its performance. Its new chairman, Sir George Jefferson, schooled in the highly competitive world of aerospace, did not take long to tell his staff that efficiency must be improved and so must productivity.

Plans for a new business service in London were disclosed and the corporation was at pains to let business users know that it would

have a network of high capacity fibre optic cable operating in the UK long before any rival. Last month British Telecom announced a link with Satellite Business Systems of America, the operator of a business satellite over the United States. The deal between the two companies would give British subsidiaries access to high speed satellite circuits.

However, it is unlikely that the business user will be content with the February reductions which still meant an increase in his quarterly charges last November of about £14.50 or 7 per cent despite the corporation's admitted inefficiencies.

Bill Johnstone

GAS

Pressures mount in face of shortage

The European gas market, for long the subject of little interest to anyone other than those professionally involved, is rapidly proving to be one of the most important and politically sensitive issues in the international arena.

Last week's gas deal between France and Algeria, coming hard on the heels of the diplomatic furor over the planned Russian gas pipeline into western Europe, has underlined yet again that gas supplies — and gas prices — are now matters that exercise the very highest levels of government on both sides of the Atlantic.

The heart of the matter is that western Europe as a whole, and France, West Germany and Italy in particular, can foresee serious shortages of gas supplies by the end of the 1980s. To guarantee supplies to meet the shortfall expected from 1985 onwards, they have to act now, given the long times involved and the nature of international gas contracts, which are usually fixed for at least 20 years, and sometimes longer.

At present natural gas accounts for about 18 per cent of EEC energy requirements. Demand is running at about 200,000 million cubic metres, and is expected to grow to between 300,000 million and 340,000 million cubic metres by 1990.

The problem for France, Germany and Italy is that European countries which could increase their production to meet their needs, notably Britain and Norway, have taken policy decisions not to do so for a mixture of economic and security of supply reasons.

The need for France, expected to be 90 per cent dependent on exports in 1990, and Germany to sign new contracts is therefore imperative. Hence their hurry to sign up deals with the Soviet Union despite opposition from President Reagan and Algeria.

The price issue is more complex. Members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries such as Algeria have long pressed (without success) to have gas contracts linked to the world crude oil price.

The French/Algerian deal, based on an estimated price of about \$5.10 per million BTUs, is about \$1.50 below the current oil price. It is slightly above the \$4.50 which Germany and France are thought to have agreed with the Soviet Union.

But the two governments are prepared to pay premium for their supplies. Gas prices have probably now peaked.

Jonathan Davis

COMMODITIES

Coffee price steadily improving

Just for a few blissful moments in the long and acrimonious history of commodity agreements, one seems to be working. Coffee prices are continuing to go better — but only gently.

This steady improvement obviously suits the producers, while prices are still low enough by past standards to encourage consumption.

Not that anyone in the coffee business is feeling complacent. Battle lines are now being drawn up for the next set of International Coffee Organization talks next month. Inevitably some of the producers will want to alter the fine tuning on the quota arrangements agreed last September to try to engineer local improvements in their prices.

For the time being a reasonably comfortable balance between supply and demand has obviously been reached.

The International Coffee Organization's pricing system on quotas is well disciplined (there is currently little temptation to cheat — unlike the conditions of 1977 when prices rose to £4,000, or four times today's prices). So with high interest rates keeping dealer and industry stocks low, prices are sensitive to any short term hold-up in supplies.

Among the items that will probably be brought up at the March talks is smaller steps between trigger prices. The question of altering groupings of origins, so that quotas can be applied by type, will also be raised again.

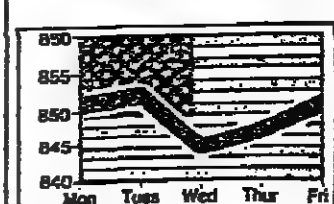
At the sharp end of the business the consumer coffee market, the manufacturers are still having to work hard at the root of the whole of the soft commodity markets' problems. That is to persuade housewives to buy more.

United Kingdom manufacturers spent £12m last year on television advertising of brand changes. They boosted the latest product to be pushed is decaffeinated coffee, and perhaps the advertising boost this month will take some market share from tea, where the price is rising more sharply.

Sally White

MARKETS ROUND-UP

Nervous watch on money supply



It is even being suggested that South Africa has bought some Russian gold to prevent it reaching the market at present, but that seems unlikely as revenue from its own gold sales is plummeting and a large balance of payments deficit is looming.

It was announced in Parliament last week that standby credit facilities of Rand 223m have been arranged with the International Monetary Fund.

Nevertheless, the talk of a pact of some sort persists and it is pointed out that such an arrangement already exists over diamond sales. It is thought that it might even be expanded to include platinum, chromite and other metals.

With gold again expected to dominate the market, there is concern that Wit Nigels' announcement that it is ceasing operations might be followed by other mar-

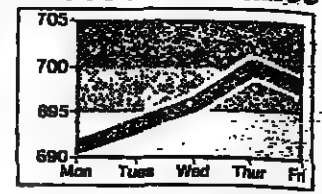
Edgars Stores, the country's biggest clothing chain, is also due to report after hectic battle last week when South African Breweries launched a Rand 66.5m raid for control but was blocked by London-quoted Liberty Life.

change. The company had a record A\$486m (£285m) net profit in 1980-81. Last September, Sir James McNeil, the chairman, said that figure was unlikely to be exceeded this year. BHP earned A\$225m in the first half of 1980-81.

Two of the other big mining companies, Western Mining Corporation and Bougainville Copper, will also produce earnings reports this week but their results are almost certain to be down considerably as a result of weak world metal prices. Bougainville is unlikely to achieve anything like the A\$94.4m it earned in 1980.

FRANKFURT

Motors advance



Selective buying by foreign investors has had a greater impact on German stock markets than the Bonn government's latest package of measures to revive the economy.

The Commerzbank Index continued its undramatic rise last week, breaking through the 700 barrier on Thursday before closing at 698.1 on Friday. Motors were one of the few sectors to benefit directly from the government's efforts. They advanced strongly when it became clear that Bonn would not be financing its economic programme through higher petrol taxes, and on the expectation that the proposed investment subsidy would boost demand for cars and trucks.

HONGKONG

Uneasy market

With the lack of any positive local news a nervous market followed Wall Street's lead by shedding 52 points during the week.

The Hang Seng index closed at 1,355.70, while average daily turnover was HK\$142.2m (£12.9m), an 18-month low. Institutions remained on the sidelines.

SYDNEY

Week for giants



All attention will be on the iron and steel giants Broken Hill Proprietary the only one to produce an encouraging earnings report.

BHP, which is Australia's biggest company, will announce its net profit for the six months to the end of November, which will give an indication of whether it expects the huge profits to continue with appropriate response on the Stock Ex-

CAPITAL MARKETS

Living with cruel February

In the mythology of the Eurobond market, February is the cruellest month. "The best thing about February is that it only has 28 days," said one bond dealer. But will this month really be so grim?

The evidence for supposing that bond traders this month will be buying less champagne than usual is in two categories: first, it is experience; dealers say that 1977 is the most recent year in which February showed any life.

Why this should be so is, to say the least, mysterious. Explanations range from the dates on which investors take their winter holidays, through the preparation of corporate and national budgets, to the tendency of banks and their clients to start the new year briskly, only to find that indigestion sets in.

However inadequate this may be, markets thrive on such folklore and it takes a brave and clever banker to launch his client upon supposedly apathetic investors.

Bond markets are finely judged at the best of times, and the reputation — and therefore future business — of a house largely depends on matching offer terms and timing to the market.

So we come to the second and more substantial argument: the immediate market outlook is even harder to read than normal.

When American banks raised their prime rates a week ago dealers' groans could be heard all the way from Moorgate. Is one to assume that hopes of falling rates have been dashed? Even if we are to see rates over 20 per cent again, has the market the ingenuity to conjure up newly attractive instruments?

One theory is that another rise in interest rates has

already been adequately discounted. Yields of 17 per cent on well-rated bonds should offer a fair measure of protection, and floating rate notes, one of last year's successes, are paying almost as much. Moreover, zero coupon bonds are intended as a defence against precisely this eventuality, although it is interesting that only about \$600m has been raised from the nominal \$1,600m of zero coupon bonds issued last month.

Dealers point out that straight dollar Eurobonds are still selling reasonably well in Switzerland, buoyed by expectations that higher American interest rates will support the dollar.

Since few people are forecasting a weaker dollar, and some, on the contrary, suggest it could move up to levels prevailing last summer, this seems a reasonable and reassuring assumption.

The market has also been encouraged by a steady secondary market in zero coupon bonds. J. C. Penney's \$300m issue, due 1994, and the two offerings from General Electric, have been particularly favoured by in-

vestors. Nevertheless, the efforts by the Japanese authorities to discourage their bond holders from selling too many zero coupon bonds issued abroad have given cause for thought.

Another issue which appears to be going well is the \$250m of floating rate notes offered by the mighty Societe Generale of France. But it is pointed out that the issue, made in the middle of last week, was aimed at institutions. A high minimum purchase deters private investors and a 0.375 per cent is payable if the paper is held to maturity.

These discreet facts indicate a relatively healthy market. One does not have to delve into the more esoteric possibilities held out by Australian corporate bonds to accept that the Eurobond market is not resilient. It is true that February is unlikely to be the year's most lively trading period. But at the same time it does not yet look as bad as market mythology might lead one to suppose.

Michael Prest

Eurobond prices (yields and premiums)

STRAIGHT BOND	Price	YIM	Par	Yield	Premium
BNP 1983	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1984	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1985	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1986	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1987	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1988	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1989	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1990	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1991	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1992	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1993	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1994	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1995	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1996	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1997	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1998	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1999	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 2000	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 2001	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 2002	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 2003	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 2004	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 2005	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 2006	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 2007	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 2008	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 2009	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 2010	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00

FLOTTING RATE NOTES

STRAIGHT BOND	Price	YIM	Par	Yield	Premium
BNP 1983	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1984	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1985	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1986	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1987	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1988	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1989	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1990	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1991	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1992	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1993	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1994	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1995	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1996	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1997	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1998	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 1999	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 2000	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 2001	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 2002	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 2003	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 2004	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 2005	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 2006	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 2007	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 2008	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 2009	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00
BNP 2010	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00	0.00

DEUTSCHMARK

BNP CP 1983 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 1984 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 1985 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 1986 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 1987 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 1988 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 1989 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 1990 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 1991 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 1992 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 1993 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 1994 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 1995 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 1996 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 1997 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 1998 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 1999 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2000 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2001 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2002 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2003 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2004 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2005 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2006 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
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BNP CP 2015 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
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BNP CP 2023 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2024 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2025 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2026 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2027 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
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BNP CP 2032 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
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BNP CP 2034 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
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BNP CP 2036 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2037 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
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BNP CP 2056 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2057 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
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BNP CP 2059 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2060 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2061 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2062 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2063 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2064 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2065 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2066 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2067 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2068 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2069 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2070 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2071 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2072 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2073 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
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BNP CP 2093 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2094 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2095 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2096 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2097 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2098 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2099 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67
BNP CP 2100 Ln 90	73	73	Wilmington	67	67

BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

INTER-CITY PEOPLE

W MIDLANDS

Inventors hit a blind spot

Sutton Coldfield inventor Peter Blanchard has made the sale of his career with his Eversure Blindspot Mirror. This device, which goes on car sun visors, is being made and marketed by Eversure Accessories, a BSR subsidiary, at Warley, Worcestershire.

Ironically, this break comes after 20 years in the game, when he is 61 and only four years away from retirement from his job as representative for a manufacturing chemist.

Blanchard, like many other private inventors, says British firms are slow to take up outside inventions. It took him six years to get a British hacker for the mirror: one year to find a Japanese.

Blanchard adds that inventors "never give up. The only people who may have judged your product are the boss's secretary and the landlady."

GLOUCESTER

Home and away



Pippa Collins (left) and Hermione Zatloukal, who are putting their skills as homemakers to work with Colzak, an interior design business they have started with a shop and office in Little Faringdon.

Mrs Collins, whose husband James is a local farmer, is Colzak's seamstress and Mrs Zatloukal, wife of a barrister and director of a London investment company, is the painter. They have designed homes for the film director Richard Young (the does Minder on ITV) and the jockey Philip Blacker, and a nursery suite for the fashion shoe designer Moya Bowler.

They have access to rural craftspeople who will do specialties like hand-painted tiles or intricate carpentry, and are thinking about opening a London showroom.

BRISTOL

ECI sweeps in

There is a new name at Equity Capital for Industry, where John Gough is the South-West regional adviser. Although Gough is the group managing director of the Hanham, Bristol, industrial and domestic brushmakers Kleenex, it's not a case of new brooms.

The South-West post is a new one for ECI, which is funded by the institutions and finds equity finance for small to medium businesses.

Gough is a member of the CBI national council and vice-chairman of the region. His fellow advisers at ECI are Geoffrey Lavers (Leeds), Eric Sayers (Solihull) and Geoffrey Moss (Manchester).

LEICESTER

Footnotes

Robert Lucas, who helped to establish a footwear industry in the Caribbean, is reviving old shoe-making skills on his own home ground.

Lucas, 44, has won the £5,500 Leicester Small Business Award sponsored by the city's estates department for a project on the manufacture of orthopaedic footwear. Lucas, a former footwear factory manager in Barwell and later a lecturer on footwear making at Hinckley, helped to set up a footwear industry on the island of St Kitts while working for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

While planning his scheme he went back to school, doing an MSC business course at Durham University's Business School.

Now, with his wife Wendy, he will run his own business from Hinckley. The judges liked his scheme because it is reviving a local skill and will provide disabled people with footwear that looks good.

Ross Davies

NEW APPOINTMENTS

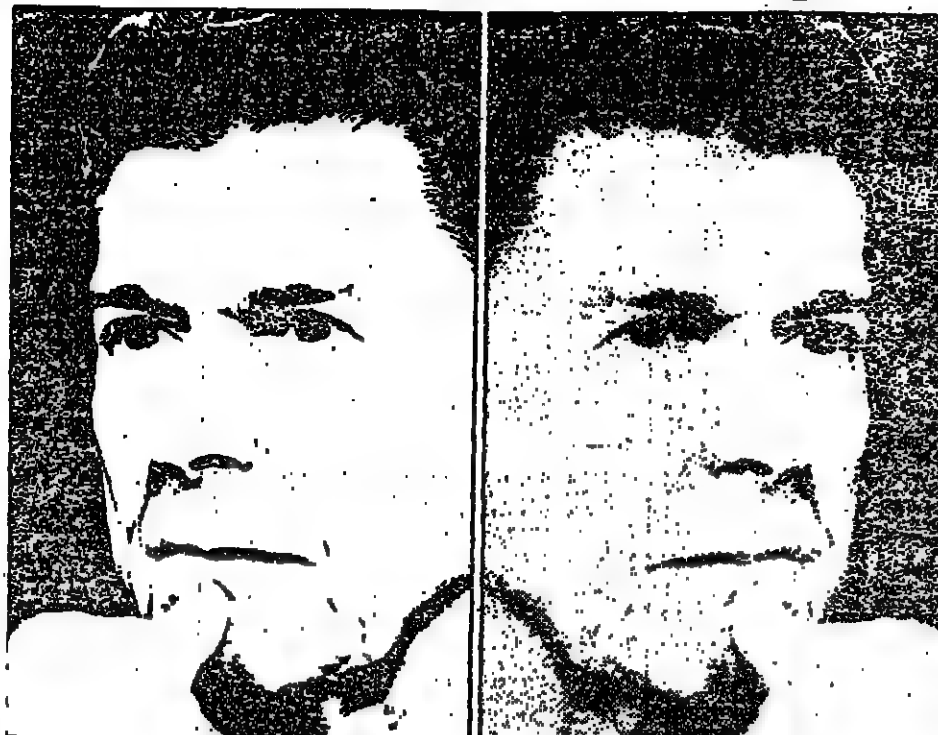
Mr Peter W. Barker will succeed Mr Joseph Palmer as chairman of J H Fenner and Co. (Holdings). He is currently, and will remain, chief executive of the company.

Mr A. N. Light has been appointed as group managing director of Laker.

Mr John H. Fleming has been appointed managing director of Vauxhall Motors, succeeding Mr Ferdinand P. J. Beickler. Mr Fleming has also been elected chairman of Vauxhall Motors in place of Mr Beickler. Mr Beickler returns to Germany as vice president of General Motors Corporation in charge of European Sourced Passenger Car Operations.

INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK: Caroline Atkinson assesses the implications of the American budget

Conflicts in Reagan budget may keep interest rates high



Is he trying to face two ways at the same time?

Europeans hoping for relief from high American interest rates will find little cheer in President Reagan's budget message to Congress today. The large deficits which have frightened New York financial markets and, in combination with the Federal Reserve tight money policy, have kept interest rates high will continue under Mr Reagan's latest budget. Although he suggests \$56,000m worth of measures to shrink government borrowing next financial year, these are expected to meet considerable opposition in Congress.

Even if they were all accepted, the deficit in the year beginning October would be \$91,500m, Mr Reagan says, second only to that expected for 1982, the current financial year. If most of the savings are rejected — as seems likely — the resulting conflict between expansionary budget policy and tight money will hold up interest rates in America, making it harder for the Bank of England and its European counterparts to bring their rates down.

Mr Reagan himself is not nearly as optimistic as he was a year ago about the likely effects of his economic programme. He warns Congress in the budget that there can be no "instant relief" from America's economic problems of high unemployment and interest rates.

Although the recession is still expected to end this spring, the forecast recovery is weak by postwar American standards. Despite declining inflation, interest rates on three-month Treasury bills are forecast to average 11.75 per cent this year and 10.5 per cent next.

Mr Reagan predicts that the economy will grow at an average rate of just under 5 per cent in real terms from the trough of the recession in March to the end of 1985. This growth will not be fast enough to bring down unemployment quickly. The jobless rate is expected to average just under 9 per cent this year, close to its postwar peak, and to remain above 8 per cent throughout 1983 and much of 1984.

Although American unemployment was typically higher than that in Britain during the 1960s and 1970s, 7 per cent is well above even a conservative estimate of full employment. It implies a considerable amount of industrial slack. The jobless rate for blacks and young people would be still higher.

What Mr Reagan does not make explicit, unlike Mrs Thatcher, is that the disappointing growth and continuing high levels of unemployment are the price being paid for bringing down inflation. This, the president predicts, will fall to 7.3 per cent this year and 6 per cent in 1983 after averaging more than 10 per cent in 1981.

High unemployment and unaided products as a result of the present recession are now the main factors curbing wage and price increases. But Mr Reagan attributes the projected fall in inflation to continued tight money, while blaming today's recession and high unemployment on his predecessor, President Carter.

Within the next few months, Mr Reagan argues, this unavoidable recession will end, being followed by a period of sustained growth.

Money and credit restraint, meanwhile, will continue to bring down inflation. It is here that most forecasters part company with the President.

Even the relatively gloomy prospect for the economy which Mr Reagan outlines, is too optimistic and based on faulty arithmetic, they believe. For if the Federal Reserve continues the monetary policy which Mr Reagan has requested, and which is presumably supposed to be embodied in the latest official forecasts, then the economy simply cannot grow as quickly as he predicts.

If the Fed eases up, as many believe that it should but few believe will, then the economy might grow as rapidly as the Administration predicts. But then inflation would be unlikely to continue to fall during 1983 and 1984.

The only way to make Mr Reagan's forecast internally consistent would be to have an extraordinary increase in the velocity of money or a ratio of money to total gross national product. This is implicitly what the president assumes.

But velocity increases year after year of the size necessary to reconcile the money and GNP assumptions in the budget are extremely unlikely. Moreover, velocity usually rises when interest rates are high, rather than falling, as Mr Reagan predicts.

The Administration is repeating last year's mistake in this year's budget. Although the president no longer pretends that it is possible to cut taxes, increase defence spending and balance the budget at the same time, he still assumes away the con-

"The Administration is repeating last year's mistake in this year's budget. Although the president no longer pretends that it is possible to cut taxes, increase defence spending, and balance the budget at the same time, he still assumes away the conflict between growth-oriented tax and spending policies and anti-inflation monetary policy."

With monetary policy keeping a tight lid on the economy, the budget policy that Mr Reagan proposes will push up interest rates rather than growth.

The president's budget projects a steady decline in federal government borrowing from the current financial year's record \$36,000m to just more than \$50,000m in 1987, the last year of the forecast. The deficit is projected to drop by about \$10,000m in 1983-4. But declines of this size in a

growing economy would still leave the underlying high unemployment budget deficit rising, thus giving a net stimulus to the economy. A drop in unemployment of one per cent as forecast for 1983, would alone reduce the deficit by about \$25,000m. The underlying rise in the deficit comes because Mr Reagan's huge planned increases in defence spending and continued tax cuts swamp the budgetary effect of even the drastic cuts in non-defence spending which the president proposes.

The nature of these suggested spending cuts indicates another basic flaw in today's budget, a political rather than economic one. Unlike in Britain, the American legislature frequently changes the budget proposals of the Administration. Last year, Mr Reagan was extremely successful in winning congressional approval for his proposals, even unpopular ones, to cut spending programmes.

But this year, a third of the senators and all of the members of the House of Representatives, face reelection in November. Their constituents are complaining about the recession and about high interest rates. Cuts in the basic social welfare programmes, in aid to local and state governments, in job programmes and in special assistance to the cities will be fought long and hard in Congress. It is these programmes which Mr Reagan proposes cutting further.

With defence spending rising by 7½ per cent a year on top of inflation, retirement pensions untouched for

political reasons, and no way of cutting the cost of servicing the national debt, remaining spending programmes have to be cut deeply to keep the budget deficit from rising.

Congress is unlikely to make such cuts in an election year. Although budget deficits are politically unpopular here, they are probably easier to fight an election in than further severe cuts in federal spending, or increases in taxes.

The Congressional Budget Office, which provides non-partisan forecasts of spending and revenues, predicted on the weekend that with no policy changes, federal borrowing will rise from last year's level of just more than 2 per cent of GNP to 5 per cent by 1984, and will stay there even if the economy recovers.

This level, while not high by British or European standards, would mark a postwar record for America. Even the deficits during the Vietnam war and the build-up in domestic spending for President Johnson's Great Society were smaller in relation to the size of the economy. The previous postwar peak for the deficit was 4 per cent of GNP in a deep recession of the mid 1970s.

It is harder to finance any given deficit here than in Britain or Europe because American private sector sav-

ings are much smaller in proportion to the size of the economy. The Administration has on occasion argued that its cuts in tax rates will lead to such a big increase in savings that larger deficits will be compatible with both lower interest rates and a fast increase in investment.

The Treasury Secretary has recently repeated this. But when challenged last year to provide evidence that present tax policies would lead to such a change in savings behaviour, the Treasury climbed down from its claim it still does have a model of the economy to explain such a prediction.

Other Administration officials have said privately that they are unhappy with the appearance of this argument to justify the continuing large deficits shown in today's budget.

Rather than a big increase in investment, the budget proposals in combination with tight money policy are likely to lead to higher interest rates and less investment. Of course a more restrictive budget would not boost growth either. But it would have allowed interest rates to be somewhat lower, with the same monetary policy.

It is also possible that the Federal Reserve might have agreed to raise its money targets slightly in exchange for tighter tax and spending policies. However, for as long as Mr Reagan keeps asking the Central Bank to keep money tight, it is unlikely that the Federal Reserve will dare to ease up and risk taking the blame for any subsequent rise in inflation.

If Mr Reagan really wants the economy to grow rapidly and interest rates to fall, then he will have to call for easier money and to acknowledge that this policy change may mean more inflation as well as more real growth. With today's budget he is trying to face two ways at the same time.

Business Editor

Budget options for industry

We should, perhaps, be grateful that the Chancellor believes he has any money at all to "give away" on March 9. But if the availability of, say, £1,000m — £2,000m appears to ease some of Sir Geoffrey Howe's problems, it still leaves him with the considerable problem of how to distribute the largesse.

However he chooses to set about it, he stands a good chance of disappointing more people than he pleases.

Just to add to the complications, it seems that the major consideration may not simply be how best to split the money between cuts in the income tax burden and help to industry.

The advocates of a reduction in VAT, as the best way to inject new life into the disinflationary process, have also been pressing their case with increasing vigour.

Industry has, of course, been building up its own list of recommendations to the Chancellor, and that will be taken a stage further this week when the CBI publishes details of what it would like to see.

However, there is an irony here in that the corporate sector as a whole is not in the dire straits it appeared to be in 12-18 months back. Corporate profits started to move ahead again last year and many forecasters are looking for a further rise of perhaps a fifth in 1982.

The liquidity position too has improved as a result of the massive run-down in stocks of the past two years. And after last year's round of rights issues, company balance sheets are almost certainly more lowly geared than they have been for a long time. (Indeed, if only interest rates would come down, one suspects there would be no shortage of companies leaping at the opportunity to gear up with some long-term fixed-rate debt.)

This, it is true, is only part of the story. For a start it is a generalization, covering the corporate sector as a whole. There remain plenty of pockets of industry, particularly manufacturing industry, where companies would say that their position was still anything but comfortable. This was all too apparent in the CBI industrial trends survey.

Also, the internationally exposed sectors of the economy are still suffering a major competitive disadvantage by historic standards. And if the pound holds up better this year than last, then they will need to make significant further improvements to their internal efficiency simply to keep pace with rapid change elsewhere.

In that sense any help the Chancellor can offer that directly cuts costs for British industry would be welcome. But there are those who would argue that this would not be the best way to set about things and that the way to ensure that managements continue to improve efficiency is by keeping the screws turned tight.

The Chancellor will have to weigh the merits of the respective arguments for himself. Certainly, the case for across-the-board help in the form of a cut in the National Insurance Surcharge, an unhealthy tax though it is, may be less than clear-cut. Apart from anything else it has the considerable disadvantage of being relatively expensive.

Both in terms of the total amount of money the Chancellor has available, and in terms of the number of people who feel they receive any direct benefit. A 1 per cent cut in the NIS would amount to £750m in 1982-83.

The Chancellor might well feel that provided he gets the general thrust of his policy right, industry will in any case enjoy considerable benefits — overseas developments permitting — from progressively lower interest rates during the course of the year. But that does not

rule out smaller parcels of help to industry.

It is hard to see anything much being done about corporation tax. The recent Green Paper is designed to produce changes, if any, for 1983 rather than this year. There might be a case for further cuts in the rate for smaller businesses. But for larger companies it is hard to see that the Chancellor can do much, particularly in what for many companies is the more pressing area — namely unrelieved advanced corporation tax.

For that large clan of companies not paying mainstream corporation tax the Gyrils scheme or one of its variants, allowing companies to pay interest on certain borrowings net of the corporation tax rate, could have rather more attractions. But here again, many industrialists might well feel that lower rates in general, and money spent on other schemes, would be more beneficial than the cash flow advantages this kind of arrangement offers.

More specifically, the government could remove some of the problems with rates (whether for plant and empty buildings can still be rated), introduce capital allowances on a wider range of commercial building and accelerate regional development grants, where payment is still delayed for months beyond the approval stage.

A step to make commercial building more attractive would offer some help to the construction industry, one of the hardest pressed sectors, but would not in itself be enough.

There must be a strong temptation for the Chancellor to enable the speeding up of some public sector capital projects or give some form of direct boost to house-building.

The other obvious area the Chancellor might look at would be industry's fuel costs, particularly the electricity costs to the larger users. Overall, though, some of the steam may be taken out of this general area by the downward movement in the oil price. Whatever the Chancellor does for industry in the Budget, it is certain to be limited. Meanwhile, the debate on the possibility of more radical reform of the corporate tax system is just starting, and the debate on how to improve the corporate sector's real profitability and share of national income gets nowhere fast.

Money markets Dollar watch

President Reagan's projection of a \$91,600m budget deficit for 1983 after one of \$98,600m this year undercuts the continuing problems facing the American Administration. But those are problems that are unlikely to be of most immediate concern to world financial markets.

The markets' short-term worry continues to be the present state of United States monetary policy. On this issue New York appeared to finish last week in a state of some confusion. The weekly money supply figures, albeit adjusted, seemed to go down well enough, but the minutes of the December meeting of the open markets committee suggested that the Fed is indeed looking to slow monetary growth considerably.

That, of course, was in December and since then Fed chairman Mr Paul Volcker has suggested that the recent surge in M1 may only be temporary.

Meanwhile the London discount houses will be keeping an eagle eye on the response of foreign exchange markets and Eurodollar interest rates this morning. If the signs are favourable, then the houses, which hope for reasonably easy money market conditions in the first half of the week, may well be tempted to see if the Bank is yet ready for a further cut in bill rates.

After Laker, Kevin Page looks at other carriers' debts

End of an era for spendthrift airlines

Rash lending by his bankers is said to be one of the main factors in the downfall of Sir Freddie Laker. Parallels with Poland and the property collapse of 1973-74 have been drawn, although due attention has been paid in the past few days to the effects of the recession on air travel and Sir Freddie's own inability to restrain himself from putting together a deal on the back of an envelope.

It is true that Laker's bankers were imprudent in lending Laker Airways over £200m, much of it at a time when intense competition for increasingly unprofitable routes was crippling the finances of even the large national flag.

Pen American, TWA and British Airways. It is also true that Midland, Clydesdale and Samuel Montagu should have insisted on, firstly, stricter financial controls and secondly, a proper management structure at Laker.

But Laker must be considered against the international background. In 1981, the world's major airlines suffered losses of \$2,100 million (£1,080m). This year losses could total nearly \$3,000m. The top 16 American trunk and regional airlines owed \$10,000m in long-term debt in 1981 and are expected to borrow at least \$2,000m from external sources over the next decade. This is twice as much as they required during the 1970s.

Worldwide, latest estimates are that airlines will need about \$100,000m to re-equip their fleets in the next 10 years, of which only \$35,000m or \$40,000m will be met through internally generated funds. After Laker, it will become more difficult

for airlines to receive help from international banks. National flag carriers like BA, Lufthansa, KLM and Air France will find few problems. Most are owned and subsidized by the state, so banks are happy enough to lend at the margin in the knowledge that governments can always raise tax revenues to bail out national airlines. National carriers in the lesser developed countries should not find insuperable problems.

But independent airlines will discover from now on that banks will dictate much harsher terms. One senior aviation banker in London believes banks will seek to change loan covenants to ensure that money will only be available if say the airline raises its fares. The trouble with this thesis, according to Mr Matt Bowman, head of transportation finance at Merrill Lynch, in New York, is that an airline cannot increase fares unilaterally. In other words, the banks would be happy to see the return of price fixing cartels which were blown apart by President Carter's "open skies" policy which announced de-regulation of routes and fares in 1978.

And Mr Bowman does not think much of suggestions from London bankers that banks should insist on management representation on airlines' boards. However, he does agree that despite a current situation in which five or six top United States airlines are in serious financial trouble, those companies which have a relatively strong balance sheet and flying profitable routes, will receive adequate external finance.

Mr Bowman also points out that Laker is a rare case in

that the vast majority of his funding was through banking syndicates. Banks in the United States are not volume lenders and account for only 7.7 per cent of airline financing requirements. Insurance company loans fund 23.3 per cent of total loans, with public offerings taking up a further 2.5 per cent. Share issues and retained earnings account for 38.9 per cent, while capitalized leasing arrangements on aircraft form 19.2 per cent of total requirements.

There are exceptions to the general rule that banks only lend to airlines at critical moments when other forms of lending have dried up. Over 84 per cent of Republic's total debt of \$532m is owed to the banks. Continental owes over 60 per cent of total debt to banks. In contrast, Pan Am, which has lost \$320m in the first nine months of the current financial year and has debt totalling \$1,160m, owes only \$9m to banks.

To date, bank loans to airlines have been made against airlines' assets, largely aircraft. The problem is that there is serious overcapacity at present, with demand for travel at a low point, and little prospect for improvement through 1982. More than 100 wide-bodied jets such as DC 10s are currently grounded, many of them in the Arizona desert. It is reckoned there are 30 DC 10s (out of a total fleet of 160) available on the resale market. Banks which loaned 80 per cent of the cost of say Boeing 777s, near to the end of their life two years ago, have seen the aircraft's current value drop below the cost of the loans. Bankers are extremely worried about their security margins. The

WHAT THEY OWE

British Airways	\$1,860m	Braniff	\$478m
Aftalia	\$285m	Eastern	\$658m
TWA	\$672m	Republic	\$532m
Pan Am	\$1,160m	Laker	\$504m

problem is compounded because most airlines have few other assets than planes. Pan Am is an exception and was pressured late last year by its bankers to sell its Inter-Continental hotels offshoot to Grand Metropolitan for \$500m.

Privately at least, many world airlines and international banks are sighing with relief at Laker's demise (pro tem?). "His bankruptcy will bring realism back to prices and will make spendthrift airlines realize that it is possible to go bust," said one senior banker yesterday. But Sir Freddie alone cannot be blamed for introducing cut-price fares which have plunged the industry into huge losses and massive debt. Deregulation in the United States meant that airlines could fly anywhere and charge whatever they thought the market could bear.

Banks worldwide have been more than happy to finance airlines over the past 10 years. The era of regulation, which meant one airline enjoyed a virtual monopoly on a given route, guaranteed revenue. After 1978 the banks believed cheap fares would make air travel one of the few growth industries as the world's young and not-so-young discovered new continents at a price they could afford.

Now bankers are predict-

ing price increases of 35 per cent on the transatlantic run, where 40 airlines lost \$600m last year. The era of cheap travel is over. The second-hand aircraft market is dead. Airlines must continue to rein back costs. Pan Am employees have already taken what amounts to a £200m wage cut. But as yet there are no signs that the banks are writing off airline debt. The switch from rash lending to a get-tough policy is already underway with bankers smoothly blaming everybody and everything, from Sir Freddie's arrogance to the second energy crisis. But not themselves.

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4,052 Alspring-Group	70	-	4.7	6.7	11.1	15.4	-	-
1,100 Armitage & Rhodes	44	-1	4.3	9.6	3.7	8.3	-	-
12,464 Barton Hill	204	-1	9.7	4.8	9.9	12.1	-	-
5,953 Deborah Services	77	-4	6.0	7.8	3.8	7.2	-	-
4,111 Frank Horrell	129	-1	8.4	5.0	11.6	23.9	-	-
11,264 Frederick Parker	78	-	1.7	2.2	33.9	-	-	-
923 George Blair	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3,899 IPC	96	+1	7.3	7.6	6.9	-	-	-
2,520 Isis Conv Pref	105	-	15.7	15.0	-	-	-	-
2,378 Jackson Group	94	-1	7.0	7.4	7.0	6.7	-	-
15,458 James Burrough	112	-1	8.7	7.8	1.2	10.3	-	-
2,570 Robert Jenkins	252	-	31.3	12.4	3.5	8.9	-	-
2,760 Scruttons "A"	56	-	5.3	9.5	8.6	8.0	-	-
4,003 Torday & Carlisle	164	-2	10.7	6.5	5.3	9.8	-	-
2,778 Twinkl Ord	13	-½	-	-	-	-	-	-
2,075 Twinkl 15% ULS	75	-	15.0	19.1	-	-	-	-
4,120 Unilock Holdings	27	-	3.9	11.1	4.8	8.2	-	-
9,506 Walter Alexander	75	-	6.4	8.5	4.9	8.7	-	-
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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

9.08 For Schools, Colleges: Going to Work 9.33 A Good Job with prospects 10.00 You and Me. For the very young (not Schools) 10.15 Music Time 10.38 History 11.00 Modern travelling and the hopes for the future 11.23 Talkabout 11.42 The writing of the TV serial, Tenko 12.07 Closedown 12.30 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Mike Stuart 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only). Financial Report followed by news headlines with subtitles 1.00 Pebble Mill at One sees the launch of British Sausage Week and hears from Frank Delaney about the world's longest 1.45 Camberwell Green. A See-Saw programme for the very young (1.20) For Schools, Colleges: Words and pictures 2.18 Detailed drawings of flora and fauna 2.40 Out of the Past. Charles Dickens 3.00 Delta Smith's Cookery Course. Lesson six: Pasta and Pancakes (1.35) See Heart A magazine programme for the hearing impaired 3.53 Regional news (not London).

3.55 Play School. For the under fives (shown earlier on BBC 2).
4.20 Cartoon: Winsome Witch in Little Big League (1).
4.25 Jackanory. Rosalind Ayres reads part one of The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett.
4.40 Playhouse: Ivan the Ninny. A traditional Russian tale adapted by Veronica Cecil.
5.05 John Craven's Newsround. The latest world news for young people.
5.10 Blue Peter. Sarah Greene with make-your-own Valentine card hints and Simon Gordon reports from the Tudor battleship, Mary Rose.
5.40 News with Richard Baker 6.00 South East at Six 6.25 Nationwide.
6.55 Dr Who. Peter Davison in part three of Kinda.
7.20 The Rockford Files. Private detective Jim Rockford goes to Las Vegas to deliver an insurance cheque to a rock star (1).
8.10 Panorama presented by Robert Keen. Richard Lindley with a report on the railway dispute.

9.00 News with John Humphrys.
9.25 East of the Summer Wine. Foggy decides that Compo is in the shape of a new trousers. At the second hand shop he is made to try on a rather light pair of jeans and Clegg discovers an old metal detector, this latter find opening up a whole new horizon for the old time series.
9.55 Police. The fly on the wall series continues with the training of recruits for the Thames Valley Constabulary.
10.40 Film 82. Glyn Worsnip talks about two new releases from Australia — Winter of Our Dreams and Manganinnie. Mulla Elidi reports from the Manila Film Festival on the premiere of Peter Ustinov's latest film, Under the Sun.
11.10 Big Jim and the Flamingo Club. The final repeat of the unusual comedy series set in the late Forties and following the fortunes of a gang of builders and their fight with the works manager (1).
11.38 News headlines.
11.40 Speak for Yourself. Explaining why you are late for work.
12.05 Weather.

BBC 2

10.10 Managing the Micro. The last of five programmes introduced by Brian Redhead. 10.35 Speak for Yourself. How to explain your late arrival at work (1). 11.00 Play School. For the under fives. 11.25 Play it Safe! Jimmy Savile with advice on shattering glass (1). 11.35 Write Away. A guide to everyday writing presented by Barry Took (1). 11.50 Closedown. 2.00 A Child's Place. Programme five — Kids and the Welfare State (1). 2.25 Maths Help. To 'O' level standard. 2.40 Our People's Lives. A Good Friday procession in a Maltese village. 3.05 The Computer Programme. The fish of ten programmes — The New Media. 3.30 Business Club. The second of a series on running small businesses.

3.55 Film: Honky Tonk* (1941) starring Clark Gable and Lana Turner. A lighthearted western about a con-man and a girl who falls in love with him.
5.40 Laurel and Hardy in Come Along With Me (1931).
6.05 Maggie (1).
6.25 Mr Smith's Favourite Garden. Part five — The Shade Border.
6.55 News with subtitles.
6.55 Riverside. Interestingly presented trends for young people.
7.30 The Genuine Article. How to spot fake books.
7.55 Porridge Fletcher is training his cellmate for the prison boxing championships (1).
8.25 Grace Kennedy. Among the vivacious singer's guests tonight is Rupert Holmes.

9.00 Not the Nine O'Clock News. The lab four will again be making us laugh nervously and loud with some more anarchic and wounding wit.
9.25 Horizon: Notes of a Biology Watcher. A film showing the work of one of the United States' foremost biologists. The narrator is Peter Wilson.
10.15 West Country Tales. The Breakdown. Anita Harris stars as the lady whose car breaks down and is helped by a seemingly charming man.
10.45 Newsnight.
11.30 Tele-Montage. A cookery lesson from one of the French speaking television networks presented by Marianne Lawrence. Ends at 12.00.

11.38 News headlines.
11.40 Speak for Yourself. Explaining why you are late for work.
12.05 Weather.

ITV/LONDON

9.30 For Schools: The Chama baboons of Africa. 9.47 The nature of change. 10.04 A visit to Hurl. 10.21 Part five of Macbeth. 10.48 Insight for the hearing impaired. 11.05 How to avoid foot trouble. 11.22 A scythe-making factory in the north of England. 11.39 Health in the United States and Britain. 12.00 Cockleshell Bay. For the very young (1). 12.10 Rainbow. Learning with puppets. 12.30 Do It Herself. Helpful hints for the handywoman. 1.00 News. 1.20 Thames news. 1.30 About Britain. A visit to Barnstable Fair and showman Arthur Whitelegg. 2.00 Money-go-round. Joan Shenton and Tony Sealable hunt for Britain's dampest house. 2.30 Film: Strange New World (1970) starring John Saxton. A made-for-television space fantasy about a trio of scientists here in suspended animation in space for 180 years returning to Earth to find only two areas where there is life.

4.15 Cartoon: Dangerous searches for the kidnapped Penfold.
4.20 Graham's Aunt. Graham Thornton with advice on stick insects and butterflies.
4.45 The Book Tower introduced by Stephen Moore.
5.15 Mr and Mrs. Quiz programme between three married couples.
5.45 News. 6.00 Thames news.
6.25 Help! Viv Taylor Gee with news of the Dyslexia Institute.
6.35 Crossroads. Adam Chance puts a long overdue proposal to Jill Harvey.
9.30 Kaleidoscope.
9.55 Weather.
10.00 The World at One.
1.40 The Archers.
2.00 News.
2.02 Women's Hour.
3.00 News.
3.02 Play: "A Touch of Frost" by R. J. Wingard.
4.35 Back in 10 Minutes. A walk in the Fens.
4.45 Story Time: "An Old Captivity" by Neville Stile in 10 parts (1).
5.00 PM.
5.05 News and Programme News.
6.30 Just a Minute.
7.00 News.
7.02 The Archers.
7.20 Start the Week.
8.00 The Monday. "The Berlin Restoration" by Anton Gill.
9.30 Kaleidoscope.
9.55 Weather.
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.30 Science Now.
11.00 A Book at Bedtime: "Charmed" by Michael Ruse in 10 parts (1).
11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament.
12.00 News and Weather.

9.00 Hill Street Blues. Daniel J. Travanti stars as Police Captain Furto in this black comedy series based in the Hill Street station house. This week the noble captain is made to look a fool in a courtroom wrangle with his friend, public defender Joyce Davenport, and then is faced with a possible outbreak of gang warfare when a young girl, the sister of a member of a gang, is killed by mistake by a rival gang.
10.00 News.
10.30 Film: Revenge (1971) starring Joan Collins and James Booth. They play a husband and wife who take the law into their own hands after their 10-year-old daughter is murdered after her work in the school. The police, originally arrest a seedy recluse who lives in the neighbourhood but have to release him through lack of evidence. Then Mr and Mrs Radford capture him and start doing him all manner of nasty things. Kenneth Griffith.
12.10 Close, Ian and Jennifer Partridge sing songs with a St Valentine's Day message.

face of criticism from the anti-smoking advocates and stoically accept the additional taxes that seem to hit them at successive budgets, but against a background of falling sales, job losses and rumours about television cigarette-sponsored sport the industry is in a desperate straits. THE BERLIN REPORT (Radio 4 8.00pm) is a comedy set in a Berlin museum towards the end of the Second World War. Not an obvious setting for a bundle of laughs but Professor Lowenthal (Robert Lang) is desperately trying to complete a thirty year task before the Allies arrive. This task is the reconstruction of a prehistoric monster, the Brachiosaurus. On the day of the unveiling ceremony something unexpected happens leading to a series of comical recriminations.

Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Week.
6.10 Today.
6.35 The Week on 4.
6.45 Miles Kingston in the BBC Sound Archives.
9.00 News.
9.05 Start the Week with Richard Baker.
10.00 News.
10.02 Money Box.
10.30 Daily Service.
10.45 Morning Story: "Norma" by Jill Morris.
11.00 News.
11.05 Down your Way.
11.20 Poetry Please!
11.30 News.
12.00 You and Yours.
12.27 Legal, Decent, Honest and Trustful. Comedy series.
1.00 The World at One.
1.40 The Archers.
2.00 News.
2.02 Women's Hour.
3.00 News.
3.02 Play: "A Touch of Frost" by R. J. Wingard.
4.35 Back in 10 Minutes. A walk in the Fens.
4.45 Story Time: "An Old Captivity" by Neville Stile in 10 parts (1).
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9.55 Weather.
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.30 Science Now.
11.00 A Book at Bedtime: "Charmed" by Michael Ruse in 10 parts (1).
11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament.
12.00 News and Weather.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather.
7.00 Morning Concert: Vivaldi, Pachelbel, Mozart, Fuchs, records.
8.00 News.
8.05 Morning Concert (continued): Verdi, Tchaikovsky, records.
9.00 News.
9.05 This Week's Composer: Berlioz: records.
10.00 English Organ Music (Recital in Corpus Christi Church, Osmington, Dorset, Leslie Williams, organ, Samuel Wesley, Michael Berkeley).
10.40 Haydn on record.
11.00 York Winds Wind Quintet: Frank Danz, Robert Alker, Ibert.
11.35 Ripken and Bartok Concert 1.

Robert Lang: Radio 4 8.00 pm.

Radio 1

5.00am As Radio 2. 7.00 Mike Road. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Dave Lee Travis. 2.00pm Paul Barnes. 3.30 Steve Wright. 5.00 Peter Powell. 7.00 Slayin' Alive. 8.00 David Jensen. 10.00 John Peel. 12.00 midnight Close.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave (848 kHz) at the following times GMT: 6.00 News. 7.00 World News. 7.00 Twenty-Four Hour News Summary. 7.30 Country Style. 7.45 Short Story. 8.00 World News. 8.05 Reflections. 8.15 The London Bach. 8.30 Musical Moments. 8.30 World News. 9.05 Review of the British Press. 9.15 News from an Overseer. 9.20 Good Books. 9.35 News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 A Word in Edgeways. 10.15 The Instrument Makers. 10.20 Smash of the Day. The New Law. 11.00 World News. 11.05 News about Britain. 11.15 Backtracking. 11.30 The Red and the Black. 11.45 The World Today. 11.50 Animal, Vegetable or Mineral? 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News. 1.05 Twenty-Four Hour News Summary. 1.30 Country Style. 1.45 James Joyce. 2.15 The End of the Road. 2.20 Rock Ahead. 2.30 World News. 2.35 Sports International. 3.00 World News. 3.05 News from Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 John Peel. 3.50 Peter Powell. 4.20 News. 4.45 The World Today. 5.00 World News. 5.05 Europe. 5.25 News. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Sports. 5.45 The World Today. 5.50 News. 6.00 World News. 6.05 Europe. 6.25 News. 6.30 World News. 6.35 Sports. 6.45 The World Today. 6.50 News. 7.00 World News. 7.05 Europe. 7.25 News. 7.30 World News. 7.35 Sports. 7.45 The World Today. 7.50 News. 8.00 World News. 8.05 Europe. 8.25 News. 8.30 World News. 8.35 Sports. 8.45 The World Today. 8.50 News. 9.00 World News. 9.05 Europe. 9.25 News. 9.30 World News. 9.35 Sports. 9.45 The World 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Power stations at risk if NUM supports Aslef

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The train drivers' pay and productivity dispute, now entering its fifth disruptive week, threatens to affect power supplies as miners' leaders meet to consider tangible support for the striking firemen.

Mr Raymond Buckton, general secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef), disclosed yesterday that he had renewed his appeal for understanding and help to other TUC-affiliated unions in a fresh round of letters sent at the weekend.

Speaking on London Weekend Television's "Weekend World", he said: "Other unions are ready, willing and able to help us. Action by miners might put coal supplies to power stations 'in jeopardy', he added, saying: "Something has to be done pretty quickly."

Mr Buckton's approach to other unions will be considered by the executive of the National Union of Mineworkers on Thursday, the second day of the latest round of Aslef's mid-week walkouts. Miners in Yorkshire are already banning the use of lorries to replace the huge Aslef-owned trains that take coal from the pits to power stations, and this is expected to become national NUM policy.

Mr Owen Brice, secretary of the Yorkshire miners, said last night: "We will have a letter from Ray Buckton, and bearing in mind the support that Aslef gave us in our strikes, we will adopt what is happening in Yorkshire now as national policy."

More support than people realize

The footplate men's leader insisted yesterday: "There is more support for our case than people realize". There had been messages of support from many trade unionists, including miners, general and municipal workers, electricians, engineers and civil servants, he said. His members were determined "to a man" to continue strike action until they received justice, though this was not just an Aslef fight. "The whole system of industrial relations in this country is in jeopardy," he argued.

By contrast Sir Peter Parker, BR chairman, speaking on the same programme, said that BR had made the system more efficient to convince the Government that it should put more money into it. "It is

BR could lose £80m on freight

Continued from page 1

ate consumption, BR has high hopes that much will still be there to be lifted when the strike ends. But a lot is moving by road, and some of this, together with the general merchandise, could be lost to rail for good.

That poses a direct threat to "commercial railway" freight, like main line electrification, which is based on higher traffic forecasts than now seem likely.

On top of the £20m-£25m already lost, BR fears that another £40m of freight will be lost during the rest of the year, even if the strike ends now, and the total could be £80m if more lost freight stays with road. This is nearly a fifth of BR's total freight budget already at risk.

On the passenger side, losses at £30m to £35m so far have been higher than for freight, but proportionally less because passenger revenue, at around £1,100 a year, is about twice that of freight.

The passenger business, which was already down before the strike to only about 7 per cent of the country's total, breaks down into about £55m a year for Inter-City, £400m from London and South-east commuters and around £200m from rural and other provincial services.

Of the £8.5m a week traffic loss so far, more than half is thought to be Inter-City (the fastest are still going through the computer) and more than a third commuter.

BR is quite confident of winning back nearly all this traffic, but less so of the other provincial services. On Inter-City there is evidence that even now firms are rearranging business meetings to the days when trains are running.

"On those days traffic is good up to about mid-afternoon," BR says, "but we cannot be sure what is happening on the days when the trains are not running. This is very worrying. There is an inherent strength in Inter-City that does not apply to them."

Perhaps the worst thing as the dispute enters its fifth week is that BR does not know how to stop it. It is frankly amazed at the apparent solidarity of moderate drivers over the flexible hours which are standard practice in Europe and which BR claims must be introduced now. Without better content, productivity, we will not get the business of the new investment, and their jobs will go anyway," a spokesman said.



A man with time on his hands

Mr George Daniels, of London, painstakingly examining a pocket watch, which it takes him a year to make. Each part is hand-made to very exacting standards, and this seems to be reflected in the price. A relatively inexpensive model would cost around £45,000.

"I make it a point never to discuss prices," he said, "but I do not make them just for the money."

Next year, however, he moves into the "mass-production" market. "I plan to make

six similar watches. Each will contain more than 10 years of watch-making and research, and if properly looked after, I will guarantee their accuracy for as long as the materials last, almost forever."

Mr Daniels has completely hand-made just a dozen pocket watches, each with its own individual innovation, such as a rotating escapement to average away all possible errors which may occur in different positions and all have a needle which shows how much the watch has been wound, and when it needs re-winding.

Mr Daniels, aged 55, came from a poor north London background. However, at the age of five, as his father went to work he would dismantle the alarm-clock on the mantelpiece and have it back on the sleep working when his father returned.

Unqualified, Mr Daniels became a watch repairer in 1947. Evening classes in physics and maths, his worst subjects at school, helped him to achieve his Fellowship of the British Horological Institute in 1952. He has written extensively on horology and is a specialist consultant for Sotheby's.

Letter from New York

Taxi-dancing is back — at a dollar a time

Anthropologists would have had a field day. Peter West and Judith Chalmers would have been beside themselves. Those who want to see the quickstep elevated to an Olympic sport would have glowed with pride. The ancient (well, 61-year-old) custom of taxi-dancing has returned in style to New York.

Not everyone can say he has danced with a girl, who danced with a girl, who danced with John Travolta. But on Thursday night at New York's famous Roseland ballroom I foxrotted with Kathy, aged 26, from Brooklyn. Kathy, an out-of-work dancer, last worked in Saturday Night Fever and our dance cost me \$1. It lasted three minutes.

Roseland, on Broadway, was famous in the twenties for its taxi-dancers—girls who, at 10 cents a dance, would help budding Fred Astaires shuffle their way through a samba, a tango or a quickstep (remember? That's the one where you cha-cha). The films and music of the time usually presented taxi-dancing as a rubber and affair, reflected, for example, in the Rodgers and Hart tune of 1930, called "Ten Cents a Dance."

The tango increase in the price of a dance reflects the interruption of 40 years; but other things have changed, too. For a start there are now male taxi-dancers on offer as well. The one I spoke to, Cary, turned out to be from Liverpool and also works as a male stripper. Going back to the girls, Connie, aged 26, in a green flowered frock, pink shoes and orange gloves, said she also doubled as a singing waitress at a seafood restaurant in the Bowery—specialists in Calamari Misto and Blue Moon.

Suzanne, also aged 26, (ever-busy confessed to 26, though this one must have been pushing 40), said she spoke Russian, played the cello, worked as a business consultant and would soon be appearing off-Broadway in a play. She was at Roseland because she needed the money.

Fighters and sailors and how-logged tailors can pay for their tickets and rent me... Butchers and barbers and rats from the harbors Are southerners my goodluck have sent me.

Maybe the sadness had something to do with the de-

mise of taxi-dancing after the war. It didn't match the optimism of the times. Maybe the current recession is one of the reasons it is back, revived by Roseland's new owner, Mr Al Ginsberg, a builder from Washington whose appetite for the past is matched only by the size of his cigars.

The dancers receive a tiny wage but may keep all the dollars they earn. And Tony Marrell's orchestra is obliged to get through 20 numbers every hour, as at the end of the evening, to keep up the earnings potential of the dancers. There is no chaperone, as there used to be in some of the early dance halls; but you must buy a ticket to exchange for a dance. You cannot hand over cash for legal reasons.

All of which sounds fine on paper, except that the whole venture looks like a setting Roseland's regulars. You might expect those regulars to be nostalgic and enjoy taxi-dancing. After all, their mean age is closer to 26 than back then (who else can go dancing at 26 in the afternoon?). But the truth is that Roseland is no longer simply about dancing, as an enormous plaque on the wall testifies.

Engraved here are the names of every married couple who met at Roseland, starting in 1944, just as taxi-dancing was dying on its feet. There are hundreds of names on the list.

As in Britain, widows in New York outnumber widowers considerably, and across the floor from the bright new hostesses sit row upon row of white haired matrons, all heavily rouged, some in raffia, one in a long dress. None of them was smiling.

The taxi-dancers are a threat to their search for a new husband (albeit the fourth or fifth in many cases).

Lurleen, originally from Texas, now a sociology student and also 26, was one of the many hostesses who sensed what was going on across the room. We shuffled around in a sort of cliché, trying to avoid getting caught in one of those good old-fashioned snailshells. "Be careful," she said, "I'm getting a lot of heavy negativity from those old ladies over there."

Only Connie was really happy. The band was playing Blue Moon.

Peter Watson

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother attends a reception by the Trustees and Friends of the Tate Gallery before opening the exhibition of paintings by Sir Edwin Landseer, 7.45.

Exhibitions
Tribal Encounters, an exhibition of ethnic objects collected by David Alexander, at the Shire Museum and Art Gallery, New Walk, Leicester, 10 to 5.30.
Royal Wedding Dress and Presents on display at the Palace of Holyrood House, Edinburgh, 9.30 to 4.30.

Clifford Webb, retrospective exhibition, Leicester Polytechnic, Leicester, 10 to 8.
Work by John Harper and Paul Brower: Chapter Gallery, Market Road, Canton, Cardiff, 12 to 10.
Paintings and drawings by Harold Gilman, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham, 10 to 5.30.

Plants of South China, 43 drawings by a Cantonese artist, Eyo and Hobhouse, 39 Duke Street, St James's, SW1, 10 to 5.30.

Recent work by Basil Beattie, Goldsmith's College Gallery, SW14, 12 to 7.

Talks, lectures
Turner's historical landscapes, by Jennifer Storey, Tate Gallery, 11 to 7.

Edward Mayhew, the best photographer to capture and demonstrate true life, by Mrs A. Baker, Heritage Unit, Fairfield House, Kingston-upon-Thames, 1.10.

Sussex's use of Narrative, by Barbara Hardy, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, Gower Street, EC1, 1.15 to 7.45.

Food, portrait of a great painter, and Open Window: National Gallery, art by David Williams, British Museum, 11.30.

The educational consequences of the Vietnam War, by M. V. Vulture, Keele University, 8.15.

Music
Piano recital by Philip Pilkington, St. Lawrence Jewry, Gresham Street, 7.30.

Concert by Northern Sinfonia of England, Newcastle City Hall, Newcastle, 8.

Academy of Ancient Music, chamber recital at Arts Centre Theatre, Warwick University, Warwick, 7.30.

London's Ghosts, all over and oddities, meet Embankment Underground, 7.30.

Auctions today
Christie's, South Kensington: Armonico, Rosewood (Oleu-olou) and drawings, 2; oriental ceramics and drawings, 9 to 5; watercolours and drawings, 9 to 5; Christie's, King Street: English and Continental glass; English and Continental glass; English and Continental glass, 9 to 5; Christie's, South Kensington: Oriental ceramics, 9.15 to 12; watercolours, 9.15 to 12; pictures, drawings and watercolours, removed from the studio of K. N. 9.30 to 4.30; silver, 9.30 to 4.30; oriental and Islamic ceramics and drawings, 9.30 to 7; old and modern jewelry, 9.30 to 4.30; carpets and objects of art, 9.15 to 7; English and Continental pictures, 9.15 to 7; furniture, 1 to 7; European ceramics, 5 to 7; Christie's, South Kensington: Oriental ceramics, 9.15 to 12; watercolours, 9.15 to 12; pictures, drawings and watercolours, removed from the studio of K. 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